In the City's third district,
there's the House of Books.
In there a Beautiful nightingale
is kept caged. A young Boy visiting
the library observes that "women"
are often depicted in ancient Books.
In the past, did the "women" who
were said to Be many, Go away
to somewhere?
And did the nightingale in the Books
Go with them, Going away------?

萩尾望都

MOTO HAGIO
PRESENTED BY
SHOGAKUKAN

PETIT COMICS

マージナル2

萩尾望都

小学館

PETIT COMICS

マージナル2

萩尾望都

雑誌　45910—42
ISBN4-09-178042-3　C0379　¥480E　　定価480円

萩尾望都

1期、2期全34巻揃い！ 大好評発売中

ひとコマ、ひとことが、あなたの心に鋭く響く！

作品集

第1期		第2期
ビアンカ	1	百億の昼と千億の夜1
塔のある家	2	百億の昼と千億の夜2
ケーキケーキケーキ	3	スター・レッド1
セーラ・ヒルの聖夜	4	スター・レッド2
3月ウサギガ集団で	5	ばらの花びん
ポーの一族①	6	ウは宇宙船のウ
ポーの一族②	7	恐るべき子どもたち
ポーの一族③	8	訪問者
ポーの一族④	9	半　神
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トーマの心臓②	12	メッシュ2
11人いる！	13	メッシュ3
東の地平・西の永遠	14	メッシュ4
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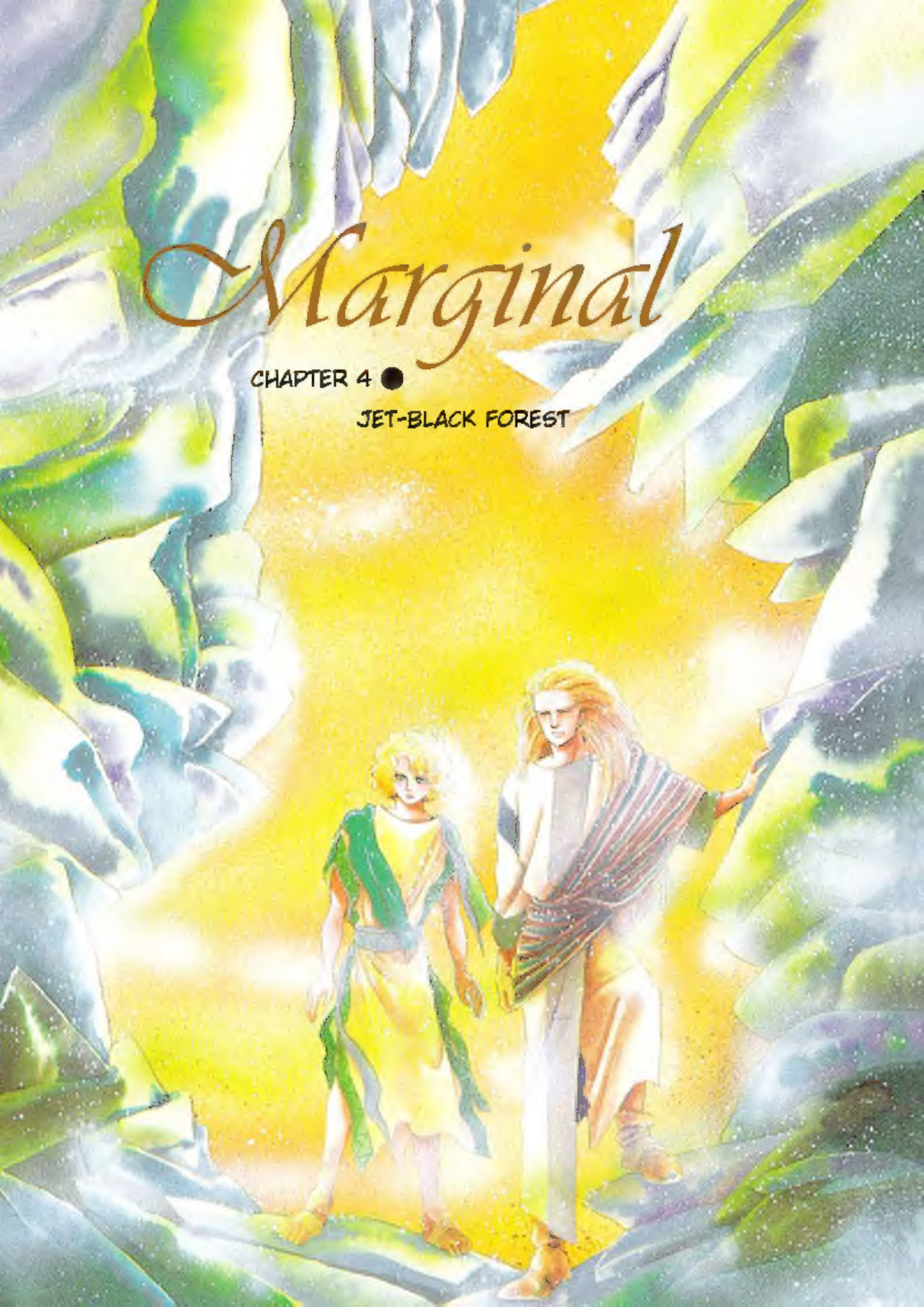
小学館

Marginal

CHAPTER 4 ●

JET-BLACK FOREST



Moto Hagio - Marginal 2

CONTENTS

Chapter 4 Jet-black Forest ---------- 7
Chapter 5 The Nightingale of the House of Books --- 49
Chapter 6 Village of the Pomegranate Flowers ------ 98
Chapter 7 Two-headed---------- 138
Chapter 8 Requiem ---------- 178

scratch

Kira...

Kira...

Get out...!

I WAS HERE ONLY 20 DAYS AGO.

HOW ...!?

THIS WASN'T HERE THEN!

...

KIRA!

HOW DID HE GET IN? INSIDE THE ICE?

SUCH A... THIS...

OI, LOOK AT THIS...!

IS THERE AN OPENING?

THERE ISN'T ANY...!

THE OTHER HALF OF HIS BODY...

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN BURNT...

BOTH HIS HAIR AND CLOTHES...!

ARE YOU TWO...

...TWINS?

IS THAT KIRA? THE ONE YOU TALKED ABOUT...

THE SAME FACE...?

BUT THEN WHY THIS...

WHY WAS HE PACKED INTO THE ICE HALF-BURNED?

...TWINS...? THAT'S...

...UNUSUAL.

THAT'S NOT KIRA...!

THEY LOOK ALIKE... BUT HE'S DIFFERENT...

KIRA'S SLEEPING... IT CAN'T BE... HE DIDN'T DIE...

WHAT IS THIS?

YOUR DOUBLE?

THEN WHAT'S THIS?

...ME...?

...IT'S...

ASHIJIN!

HE'S YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU?

WELL THEN, YOUR TWIN IN THERE?

WHAT'S WITH THE YOU INSIDE THE ICE?

AREN'T YOU KIRA?

IT'S ALL JUMBLED UP!

WHAT IS IT?

...

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, ASHIJIN.

HE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND WHAT'S HAPPENING EITHER.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...?

WHAT...

AM I...?

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A PER-SON WHO'S TRAPPED IN THE ICE.

JUUSHI.

IT'S A GRAVE.

THEN WE'LL LEAVE IT ALONE.

...YES BUT LOCKED IN THE ICE LIKE HE IS, WELL, THERE MUST BE A GOOD REASON.

IT'S HIS CHOICE.

LET'S GET HIM OUT. LET'S BREAK THE ICE.

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS KID.

DON'T DO THAT?!

YEAH YEAH, THE SUN'S UP ALREADY.

HURRY UP!

HE BROKE OUT IN TEARS BECAUSE IT WAS COLD.

WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU'RE LATE!

THERE'S RUMOURS ABOUT FOREST DJINNS GOING AROUND NOW, AREN'T THERE? ...HAVE YOU HEARD?

...HEY ASHIJIN, I ONLY REMEMBERED THIS NOW BUT...

...

THE IROKO YOU BOUGHT...

...COULD BE SOMEONE THE DJINN CLING TO.

HMPH!

GULLIVER WILL GET JEALOUS!

DON'T COME SO CLOSE!

THAT KID...

WHY?

WHAT ABOUT THAT CHILD'S FAMILY?

WHAT TOWN DID THEY LIVE IN...?

HIS MIRROR SELF LOCKED IN THE ICE.

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED..

...PAY ATTENTION KIRA!

...DID YOU REMEMBER YOUR HOME?

REMEMBER?

WHAT?

I'M NOT KIRA.

SOMETHING I HAVE FORGOTTEN.

WHAT...

...AM I?

WHAT?

SFX : FLAP-FLAP-FLAP

THANKS... THIS FILE DIDN'T COME WITH A SUMMARY.

DO YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, MEYARD?

MORE-OVER... THEY'RE ALL XXY GENO-TYPES.

...ALL OLDER THAN 13, 15 OF THEM ARE ORPHANS WITHOUT NENJA.

I CAN EXPLAIN IT. THOSE 40 NAMES ARE...

THEY MORE THAN LIKELY WON'T GROW BEARDS NOR BECOME BALD.

THAT'S RIGHT, UNLIKE THE XY TYPE THEY HAVE PLENTY OF FEMALE HORMONES.

ALL OF THEM?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE THEM EXACTLY THE SAME AS WOMEN.

WELL, YEAH. AFTER ALL...

...NEEDS CHARISMA MORE THAN ANY MARK OF BEAUTY THOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?

A FAKE MOTHER..

...THEY'RE AT THEIR MOST ANDROGY-NOUS.

DURING THOSE 4, 5 YEARS OF BEING AN IROKO...

THESE BOYS DURING THE 4, 5 YEARS AFTER THEY'VE LOST THEIR COLOUR IN WHAT YOU CALL THE IROKO STAGE.

THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL AREN'T THEY,

BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE BOYS,

THEY BECOME WHITE TO THE POINT OF BEING TRANSPARENT BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN THEY SECRETE THE MOST FEMALE HORMONE.

IT'S LIKE NATURE'S STRUGGLING TO REINVENT FEMALES...

SOMETIMES THERE'RE EVEN BOYS WHOSE CHESTS EXPAND LIKE A GIRL'S...

...WALKS AROUND THE TEMPLE DISTRICT JUST TO SEE MIKAL.

NON-SENSE!

...THE CENTER'S PEOPLE SOME-TIMES TOOK...

BECAUSE HE WAS SO MUCH LIKE A GIRL WHEN HE WAS AN IROKO...

WHAT ABOUT THE MAYOR'S SON MIKAL?

HE'S AN XY GENOTYPE BUT...

SOMEHOW, JUST FROM LOITERING AROUND THE TEMPLE DISTRICT, I'D WISH THERE WERE WOMEN AROUND, WOULDN'T YOU?

I'M GAY BUT I WAS BORN FROM A WOMAN.

YOU MEAN YOU AREN'T GAY?

... THOSE 4, 5 YEARS, IT'D BA-LANCE OUT THE WORLD.

...WOMEN, OR AT LEAST IF THEY COULD ALTERNATE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE DURING ...

THIS IS A WORLD WITH ONLY MEN. BUT IF THE IROKO COULD CHANGE INTO...

UNLESS THE NEW MOTHER IS DECIDED UPON SOON...

THE DEVOTED MIKAL IS DESPERA-TELY TRYING TO HOLD DOWN THE MAYOR'S BLOOD PRESSURE.

AT ANY RATE,

trans note: the sound of an electrical device stopping

WHO'S THIS?

AN ADULT?

THAT'S... HMMM NO.18, RIGHT? HE'S AN ADULT.

EH?

....AAAH LET ME CHECK THE XXY LIST...

I SAW HIM BEFORE. WITH HIS SILVER HAIR, IN WHITE CLOTHES AND WITH A WHITE CHEST, HE COULD LOOK LIKE A BRIDE DOLL.

...THE ANTI-BODY COULD BE EASILY DESTROYED. HE'LL HAVE A SHORT LIFE, MEYARD.

MALES HAVE AN ANTIBODY THAT PROTECTED THEM FROM DYING OUT WHEN THE DISASTER STRUCK THE EARTH. WITH THIS MUCH FEMALE HORMONE...

WHAT IS HIS NAME?

HE'S EXACTLY WHAT I PLANNED FOR.

HE DIDN'T BECOME MASCULINE, DID HE? HIS COLOUR'S STILL WHITE AND HIS BONES ARE SLENDER.

HIS TRANSITION TO MANHOOD WILL PROBABLY BE SLOW. HE HAS SUCH A FRAGILE CONSTITUTION.

THAT'S RIGHT... HE'S REACHED ADULTHOOD AND HE'S GROWN A LITTLE MORE MASCULINE, BUT HE'S ALSO RETAINED MUCH OF HIS IROKO ANDROGONY.

TRADI-TIONAL-LY...

HE'S A LIBRA-RIAN.

...THEY'RE THE AGENCY THAT OPPOSES THE CENTER AND THE TEMPLE.

HE'S FROM THE HOUSE OF THE NIGHTINGA-LE. THE HOUSE OF BOOKS.

WHY? HAS HE STILL GOT FAMILY?

- THAT ONE'S - OUT OF THE QUESTION MEYARD.

THE HOUSE OF THE NIGHTINGALE.

OH?

INTE-RESTING.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF MOTHER WERE TO COME FROM THIS SO CALLED HOUSE?

ME-YARD!

WAIT A MINUTE!

I WANT YOU TO PERSONALLY INVESTIGATE THIS SILVER-HAIRED BOY AND THE HOUSE OF BOOKS.

MARCO,

THE LIBRARIANS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION, MEYARD.

IT'S AGAINST THE RULES OF THE PROJECT.

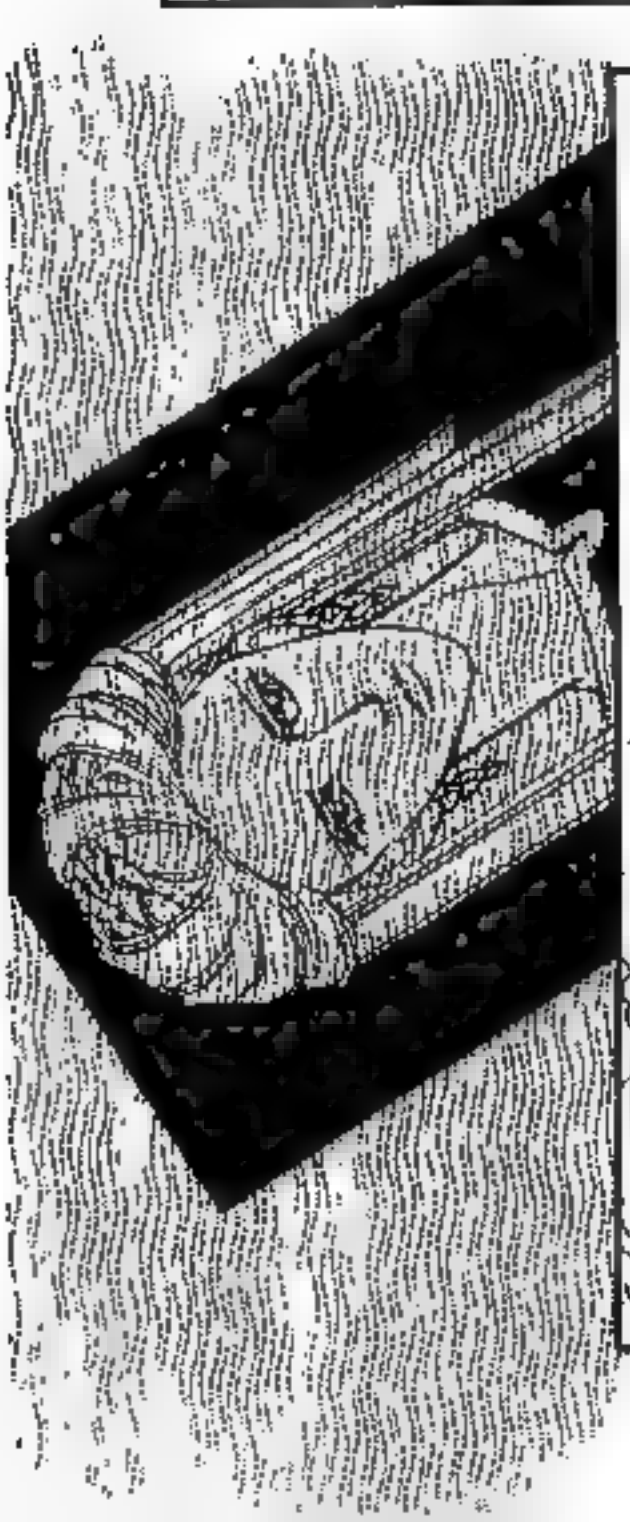
I'LL TAKE IT RIGHT AWAY.

FROM FLO?

...FLO AT THE AIR-PORT.

THERE'S A MESSAGE IN THE PRIVATE CHANNEL FROM...

ME-YARD!



HEY! IT'S THE COMPANY'S COMMITTEE THAT MAKES THE RULES!

ME-YARD!

?

IT'S JUST A PERSONAL INVESTI-GATION.

IT'S ME WHO DECIDES ON HOW TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT.

...AN ILLEGAL ALIEN?

HUH?

THANKS TO YOU, MY STOMACH HURTS.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN, BUT HE MANAGED TO REACH THE AIRPORT.

THAT'S RIGHT. SOMEONE SNUCK INTO MARGINAL.

IS THAT A JOKE, FLO?

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ENIGMA OF EARTH, WE CAN'T IGNORE TRESPASSERS.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A CRIMINAL OR POLITICAL OFFENSE BUT,

HE WAS HEADED FOR THE FOREST.

THAT MAN BOUGHT AN IRREGULAR SMALL-SIZED FREIGHTER FROM IT'S CAPTAIN AND THEN...

...SNUCK INTO THE COUNTRY.

THE ONE FROM BEFORE?

...THE FO-REST?

THIS IS THE FIRST TAPED INTERVIEW WITH THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN.

PING

ANYWAYS, HE WANTED TO GET OFF ON THE EARTH YA KNOW.

HE HAD A GUN, YA KNOW, THREATENED ME EVEN YA KNOW HE SHOWED ME THE MONEY YA KNOW.

YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING HOW HE GRABBED ME BUT YA KNOW.

WELL, BECAUSE, YOU, YA KNOW, REMOVED THAT MAN SO EASILY.

...EVEN IF IT WAS STRANGE THERE.

HE SAID OK, YA KNOW, AND TO GO TO THAT FOREST CLOSE TO THE RIVER YA KNOW...

I SAID I-AH WAS HEADED TO THE EARTH'S EUPHRATES AREA, YA KNOW.

THE FOREST...?

I TOTALLY BEG YOUR FORGIVE-NESS.

THIS IS HIM.

THE SAME.

WHAT IS THE ILLEGAL ALIEN SAYING?

SFX: CLATTER

OH AND THEY ARE STILL OUT TO GET A PICTURE OF THAT PLACE.

MAN DOES MY STOMACH HURT...

THE FOREST THAT WAS BURNT ...

TO THE SAME P POINT WE DISCUSSED ...

YES.

HE'S SAYING HE WANTED TO GO TO THE BLACK FOREST CLOSE TO THE RIVER...?

THAT MAN SAYS HE WAS MADE TO MEET THE MAN IN CHARGE HERE.

OUCH!

THAT'S A GOOD ONE.

IT'S LIKE A STORY, ISN'T IT?

...

I'LL BE WAITING. SEE YA.

PV

I'LL BE THERE IN AN HOUR.

LET'S MEET HIM.

THE WHOLE THING'S STRANGE.

TRULY STRANGE.

PLEASE MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR MY EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE METRO.

I'M GOING TO THE AIRPORT.

NO ONE WANTS TO COME TO EARTH.

..SNEAKING INTO MARG NAL?

SO WHAT'S WITH...

VII----

MY PLAN'S ADVANCED LITTLE BY LITTLE JUST AS THE COMPANY WANTED.

IT'S BEEN 12 YEARS SINCE I BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF MONODOR'S CENTER--

ACCURATELY, ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.

MARGINAL.

A ROUTINE CHANGE, WHETHER ACCIDENTAL OR INCIDENTAL, IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TEMPEST IN A TEACUP.

SUCH A SMALL, CLOSED OFF WORLD. THE PLAN ADVANCES JUST LIKE A SCHEDULE.

DOES IT FEEL SO WEIRD...?

NOTHING IS DIFFERENT AT ALL- BUT THEN WHY...

THAT'S RIGHT.

...AM I?

WHO?

I...

WHO...

HI MEYARD.

HI FLO.

WHERE IS THE ILLEGAL ALIEN?

PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY STOMACH.

A STE-RILE ROOM?

THE MAN IS IN A STERILE ROOM.

THANKS.

HERE'S SOME MEDI-CINE FROM THE CITY'S BAZAAR.

COMING TO EARTH WITHOUT ANTIBODIES IS LIKE HAVING A DEATH WISH.

WE CONFISCATED A GUN FROM HIM; IT DOESN'T HAVE IT'S IDENTIFI-CATION CHIP.

WE ADMINISTERED A BLOOD TEST AND FOUND THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE D ANTIBODIES.

WELL THEN, WHY IS HE HERE?

THIS GUY'S BEEN SAYING HE'S A BIOLOGIST, HASN'T HE?

shine

...

PLEASE DISINFECT ME.

I'LL TRY MEETING HIM.

CREAK

FLOMP

flicker

rattle

rattle

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE?

THIS ROOM'S TOO HOT!

NOT AT ALL!

COM-FORTA-BLE!?

ILLEGAL ALIEN.

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO KNOW YOUR NAME.

I WANT TO MEET THE MAN IN CHARGE. WHO'S THE BOSS AROUND HERE?

WHO ARE YOU?

PLEASE TAKE A SEAT AND START YOUR STORY.

WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU THE MARGRAVE?

WHAT IS THIS?

YOU'RE ASKING WHO HOLDS THE POWER ON EARTH?

TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES WHEN YOU SPEAK TO SOMEONE!

BAM

clang

!

SFX: GASP

!

...
SORRY.

IT'S NOTHING. DON'T COME.

DIREC-TOR!?

IT'S USUALLY BETTER IF I DON'T LET PEO-PLE SEE MY EYES.

...

THAT'S A ROMANTIC NAME, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE SO YOUNG...

AREN'T YOU... THE MAR-GRAVE?

DI-REC-TOR ...?

I'M WEARING A PERSONAL GRAVITY-PRESSURE CONTROL-LER.

PLEASE SIT, THE GRAVITY OF EARTH MUST BE HEAVY FOR A GUEST WHO COMES FROM FAR AWAY.

I'M MEYARD.

I'M NOT YOUNG. I CAME HERE 12 YEARS AGO.

...

YOU CAME HERE TO SEE THE FOREST?

I'M THE MAR-GRAVE OF THE DOMED CITY IN THE EUPHRATES AREA.

THERE'RE SEVERAL MARGRAVES LEFT ON EARTH.

I'D EXPECT YOU WOULD KNOW ABOUT THE EARTH'S SO-CALLED CONDITION. OR DON'T YOU?

YET YOU CAME TO EARTH WITHOUT HAVING ANTIBO-DIES?

YOU SAID SOME-THING ABOUT BEING A BIOLO-GIST?

...BUT THAT WAS ONE MONTH AGO AND I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN PERMISSION.

I WENT THROUGH THE LEGAL FORMALITIES TO COME HERE...

THE TRUTH IS I DIDN'T WANT TO SNEAK INTO THE COUNTRY.

....

FROM MARS.

NO...

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? THE STA-TION?

SO AS A LAST RE-SORT ...

...MY OLD FRIENDS... THE ALEKSANDR COUPLE ...WENT MISSING 20 YEARS AGO...

BUT... YOU PRO-BABLY WANT TO KNOW WHY I'M HERE.

I CAME TO SEARCH FOR SOME-ONE...

AFTER THAT, THE TWO OF THEM...

...I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT.

IN SHORT, 20 YEARS AGO WE WERE FRIENDS, STUDENTS AT KURYUSE U, RESEARCHING BIOLOGY TOGETHER.

ARLIN, IVAN, AND I...

..GOU.

SUZUKI GOU.

GOU. AND YOU ARE ...

ARLIN AND... IVAN.

I TOO WAS A STUDENT AT MARS' KURYUSE UNIVERSITY AROUND THAT TIME.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

DID YOU ALREADY INVESTI-GATE MY IDENTITY?

IN THAT TIME THERE WASN'T A PERSON AT THE UNIVERSITY...

...WHO DIDN'T KNOW YOU. YOUR GROUP MADE SPECTA-CULAR...

...RESEARCH RESULTS ANNOUN-CEMENTS ONE AFTER ANOTHER. GOU, IVAN, AND ARLIN; THE THREE OF YOU...

THEN CAME THE SCANDAL.

...WERE ENVIOUSLY WATCHED, SEEN AS SPECIAL, AND EVEN REGARDED AS ENIGMAS.

I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF YOU...!

THE SA... SAME UNI-VERSITY? WHAT FACULTY?

I WAS JUST A MEDIOCRE FIRST YEAR.

THEY WERE INNOCENT!

THE UNIVERSITY AND OUR MENTORS ONLY CARED ABOUT THEIR OWN REPUTATIONS...

BECAUSE OF THAT IVAN AND ARLIN...

THOSE ARE THINGS FROM THE PAST!

...THEY MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING VERY WRONG...

THEIR NAMES DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCHOOL REGISTER AND EVEN FROM THE ACADEMIC WORLD.

ARLIN AND IVAN WERE SUDDENLY BANISHED FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

IN THE EUPHRATES'...

...AREA'S FOREST?

...ARE NOW ON EARTH?

IN OTHER WORDS...

PUT P POINT'S MAP ON SCREEN...

...THIS IS AN ENIGMA AS WELL.

...

I HAD TO PIECE THE CLUES TOGETHER BUT I HAVE ACCESS TO A WEALTH OF INFORMATION.

WAS IT HERE, THIS POINT IN THE EARTH'S VAST DESERT?

DR. GOU

YOU KNEW YOUR OLD FRIENDS' WHEREABOUTS, DIDN'T YOU?

FROM BEING CHASED BY THE COMPANY...

THEY WERE HIDING ....

YOU'RE WRONG!

ARE YOU ONE OF THE COMPANY'S PEOPLE?

WHY?

BY THE COMPANY?

YOU CAN SAY THEY'RE CRIMINALS BUT I WAS THEIR FRIEND!

I CAME TO ADVISE THEM TO TURN THEMSELVES IN BEFORE THEY'RE ARRESTED!

IF I WAS A PERSON FROM THE COMPANY, WOULD I HAVE HAD TO SNEAK IN!?

HE DID SOMETHING IN SECRET.

I DON'T KNOW! ....IT WAS SOMETHING IVAN DID.

WHAT DID THEY DO...?

EVEN DURING COLLEGE, HE HAD TRULY UNUSUAL POWER.

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT THEY'D DONE,

HE TOOK HIS WIFE ALONG TO EARTH...?

EXCEPT THAT HE GOT ARLIN INVOLVED!

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TELLING ME EVERYTHING, SUZUKI GOU.

THAT ...

...IS RIGHT.

WHAT? ARE THOSE GLASSES EQUIPPED WITH LIE DETECTORS?

let go

"DON'T TOUCH ME!

clatter

MAR-GRAVE!

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IMPRESSION ABOUT ME,

I'M NOT TELLING LIES.

...JUST WORRIED ABOUT MY FRIENDS.

I... I'M...

I WON'T TRY ANY-THING!

TURN

...

SUZUKI GOU, DON'T MOVE!

THE LASER'S ALIGNED WITH YOUR HEAD!

THANKS! PLEASE LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.

I'LL PERSUADE THEM TO SURREN-DER.

OUCH!

...LET'S GET A GUARD AS WELL...

..EVERY-THING'LL COME TO MY STO-MACH...

HE ALREADY DECIDED SELFISH-LY...

PLEASE PREPARE THE HELI. WE'RE GOING TO THE FOREST.

DO YOU WANT TO TAG ALONG, DR. GOU?

YES.

DR. GOU, WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM YOU MIGHT BE INFECTED.

DID YOU RECEIVE A VACCINATION?

YOU KNOW THAT,

THE ILLNESS CAUSES D-TYPE DEFECTS TO THE GENES...

IT'S EASIER THAN WEARING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

SO I COULD MEET WITH IVAN AND ARLIN.

...I GOT IT.

I CAME TO EARTH MORE THAN JUST PREPARED.

DEFECTS I MIGHT PASS ON?

I UNDER-STAND.

THEY'RE BOUND TO SURRENDER TO A PATROL OF JUST 3 PEOPLE.

WHEN WE'VE FOUND IVAN AND ARLIN, I'LL PERSUADE THEM SOMEHOW.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR BEING A BOTHER...

BESIDES, I'M ALSO A TRESPASSER.

SFX: DASH 7X

PLEASE KEEP QUIET FOR A BIT.

EVEN IF I'M AN ANNOYANCE TO THEM NOW...

THINGS WILL ONLY GET WORSE FOR THEM.

ANYWAY, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE COMPANY FINDS THEM AND TRIES TO CAPTURE THEM.

THAT POINT IS CLOSE BY.

WE'LL BE THERE IN 3 HOURS BY HELI.

SFX: DASH 3X

HAS IT REALLY BEEN 20 YEARS?

FINALLY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN.

...IVAN

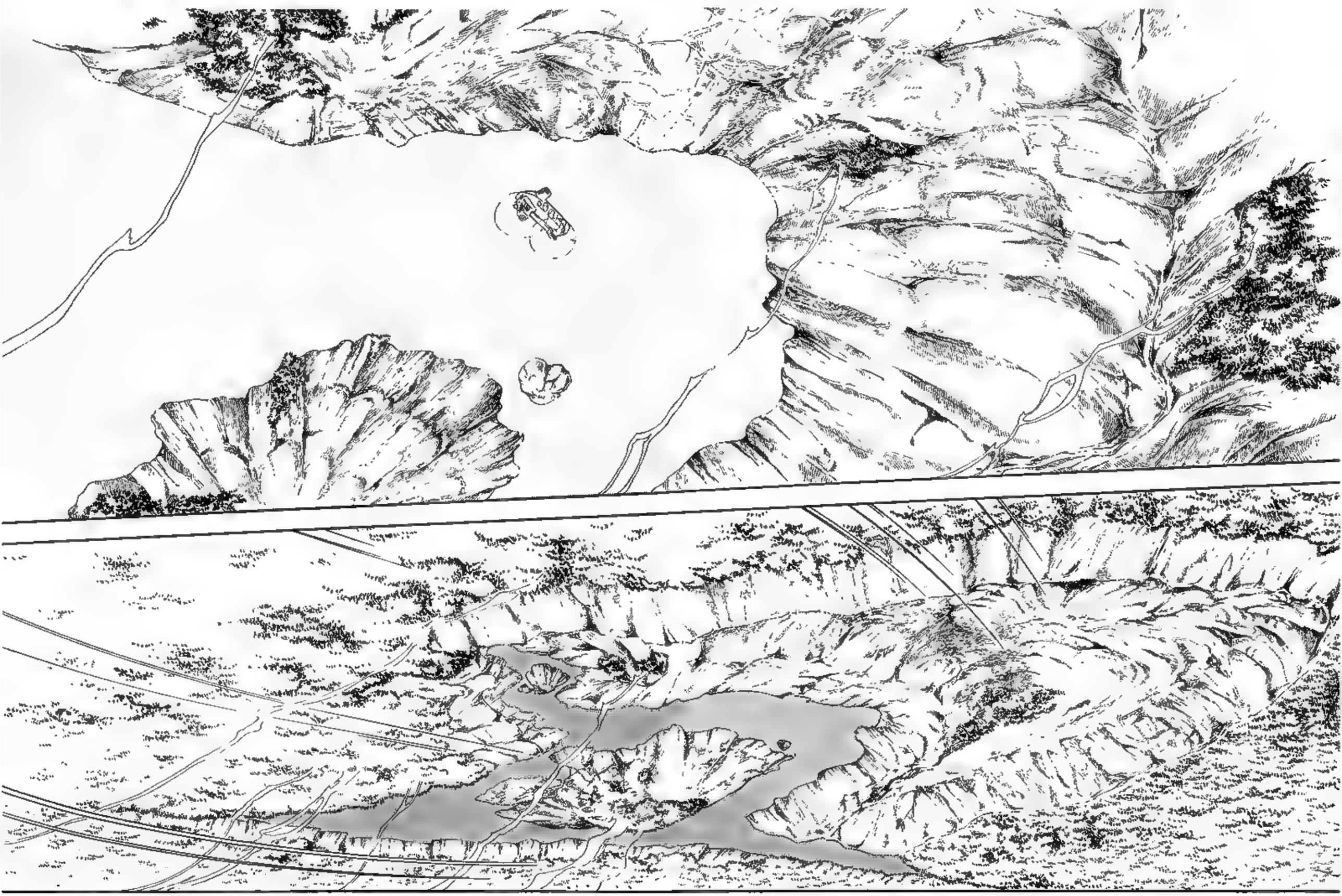
...ARLIN

WE'RE ALMOST THERE...

IT'S RIGHT AHEAD ....

Huh!?

THE RADAR'S NOT PICKING UP ANY SIGNS OF HUMAN LIFE...



That.... what!?

Is this really the place!?

THIS PLACE WAS BURNED.

12 DAYS AGO A CHARTER FROM THE COMPANY CAME.

..Why...

Why did you come along when you knew this!

THE COMPANY DIDN'T INFORM ME.

KICK

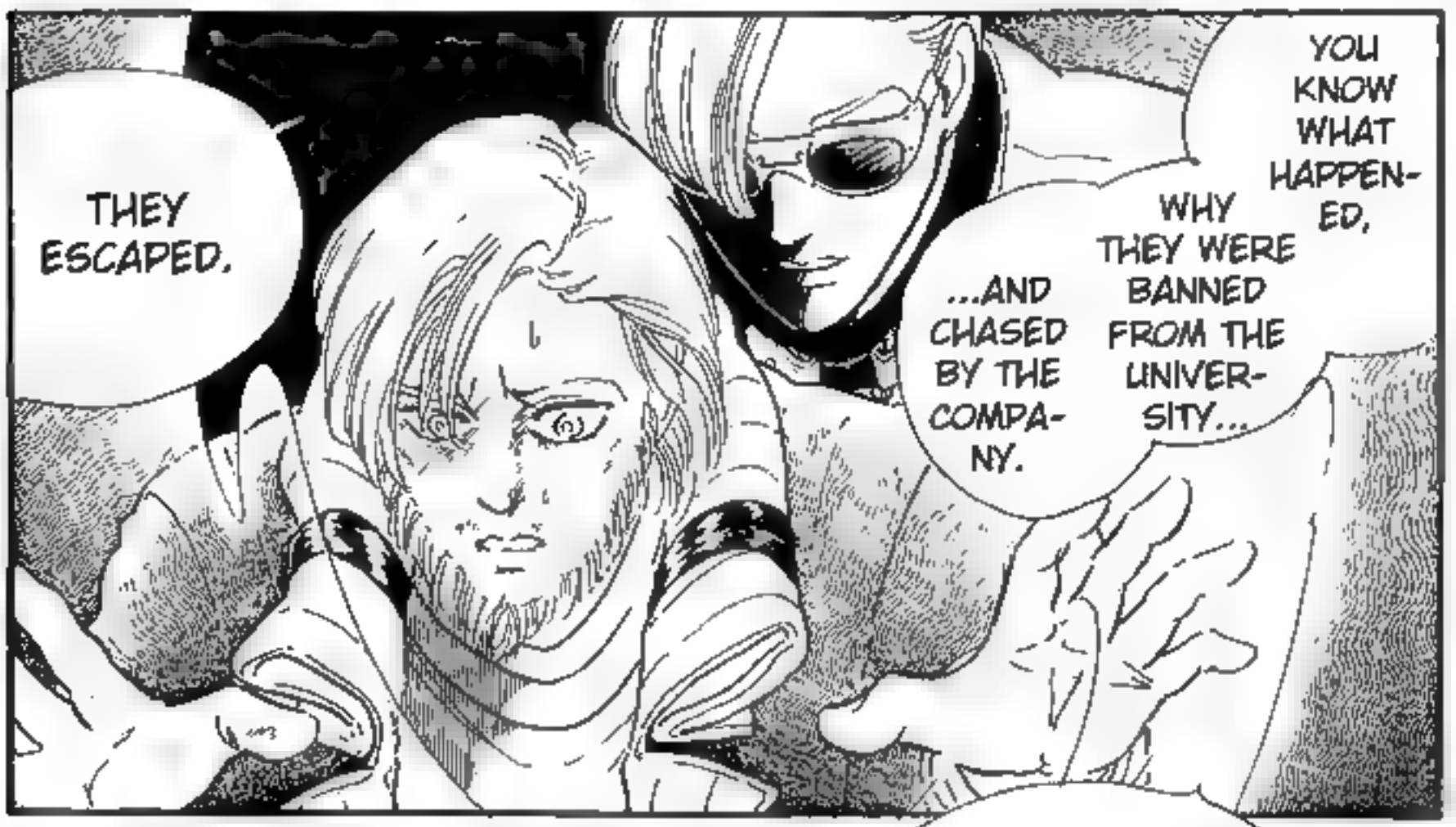
Mur-derer..!

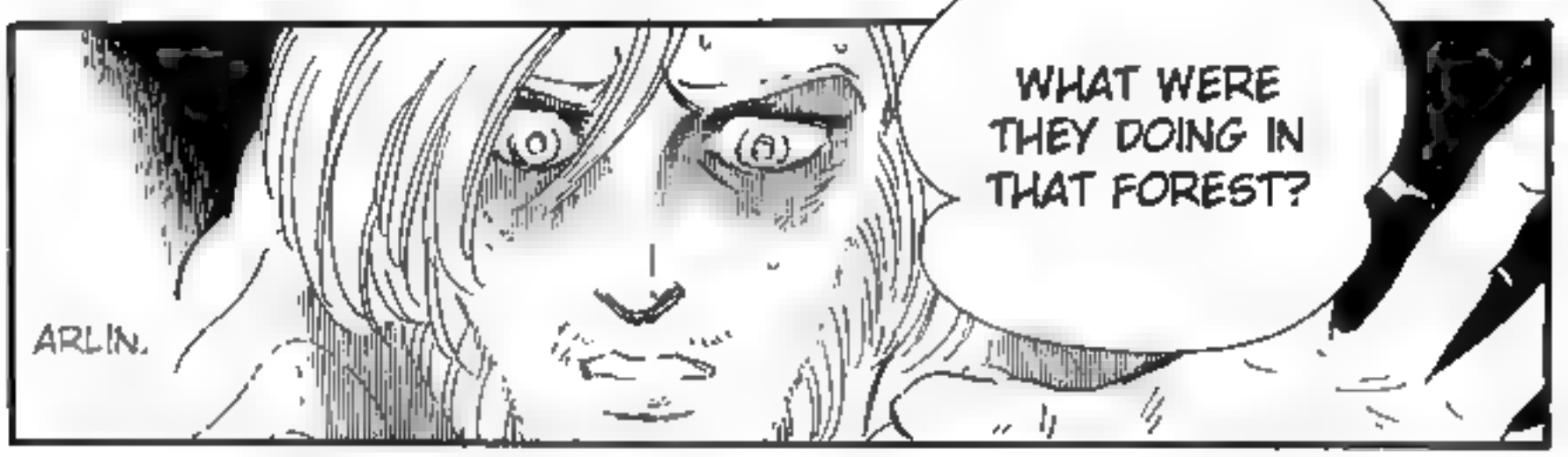
I WAS TOLD THAT ONLY A DISEASED PART OF THE FOREST WAS BURNED.

I STILL WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT IF YOU HADN'T COME HERE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ARLIN AND IVAN ALEKSANDR'S REFUGE WAS LOCATED HERE.

NO ONE AROUND HERE LIVES IN THE FOREST.
WHEN DID THEY START HIDING HERE?
WHAT WERE THEY DOING HERE?


THEY ESCAPED.
...AND CHASED BY THE COMPA-NY.
WHY THEY WERE BANNED FROM THE UNIVER-SITY...
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPEN-ED,


ARLIN.
WHAT WERE THEY DOING IN THAT FOREST?

ARLIN...!

YES, FATHER.

MI-KAL...

...ARE YOU THERE?

HOW DO YOU FEEL...?

THE FIFTH DAY OF THE MONTH OF THE WIND...

WHAT DAY IS IT...?

I'M ALRIGHT... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK...

GO... VISIT THE HOUSE...

YES FATHER.

LISTEN TO NEZ THE SECRETARY.

I'LL GUIDE YOU....

...MIKAL, PLEASE COME...

...I'M ONLY GUIDING YOU MIKAL...

WHAT'S THIS TALK ABOUT BOOKS? NEZ?

IT'S THE HOUSE OF THE NIGH-TINGA-LE.

TO THE HOUSE OF BOOKS IN THE THIRD DISTRICT.

WHE-RE TO..

NEZ?

...I'LL GUIDE YOU...

I WONDER IF IT'S TO THE DOCTOR...? THAT... NEZ?

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Contact us at [redacted] *for details*

COME WITH US AND SQUEE ON OLD SKOOL BL!

The Pink Panzer

Marginal

CHAPTER 5

THE NIGHTINGALE OF THE HOUSE OF BOOKS

EME-
RALD.

SOME GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

SHH...

... MASTER MIKAL, LET'S MOVE AWAY FROM THESE STREETS.

DASH

DASH

!

EH?

WHY?

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY JUMPED FROM THE TOWER.

?

WHAT? NEZ?

THEY SAY A PERSON JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE.

THAT'S MY OLDER BROTHER!

IT'LL BE BETTER IF YOU DON'T LOOK. DID YOU KNOW HIM?

THAT BOY IS FROM THE SAME CLASS AS MINE AT THE TEMPLE SCHOOL!

MASTER MIKAL.

NEZ.

MJOC!

MJOC!

MJOC!

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN DO... HE'S ALREADY DEAD.

BUT... NEZ...

YOU MUST GO NOW TO THE LIBRARY...

...
OF COURSE IT DID...

...
IT SHOCKED ME.

SETTLE DOWN PLEASE, MIKAL.

...
BUT ...

...

WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU SCARED?

..AND IT'S EVEN MORE RARE TO HAVE ANY KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ONE WHO COMMITED SUICIDE.

THOUGH IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT PEOPLE OFTEN COME HERE TO COMMIT SUICIDE, IT'S RARE TO WITNESS IT ACTUALLY HAPPENING

THIS HAPPENS OFTEN?

OFTEN?

YES, IT HAPPENS OFTEN.

9 (LATTER

NOW THEN...

PLEASE, COME IN.

THIS WAY PLEASE.

NEZ?

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM, ELDER SAKI

IT'S BEEN LONG, MASTER NEZ.

DID YOU HAVE TO WAIT LONG, MASTER MIKAL?

YOU ARE TO STUDY HERE.

BUT I'LL WAIT FOR YOU UNTIL YOU'RE DONE.

NEZ ...

...

PLEASE HURRY. COME ON. THIS WAY.

Plod Plod Plod Plod Plod Plod

RATTLE

FLAP

WAH!

FLAP

chirp chirp chirp chirp

FLAP

WAAH... UH...

THEY'RE JUST BIRDS, MIKAL-SAMA.

YES, ELDER SAKI.

WELL THEN. . I'LL LEAVE HIM IN YOUR CARE, EMERALD

WELCOME, YOUNG VISITOR.

THAT'S...

DID THEY STARTLE YOU?

NOT IT ...

...

JUST NOW, WHEN WE WALKED PAST THE TOWER, THEY WERE LOOKING AT THE BODY OF A PERSON WHO HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE BY JUMPING OFF THE TOWER.

I'LL NOW PUT A WARM DRINK IN THESE COLD HANDS.

TO SOME PEOPLE, EVEN THIS SHORT LIFE CAN SEEM INTERMINABLE.

whistle

chirp

chirp

chirp

chirp

chirp

chirp

YES.

WE BREED, RAISE AND SELL BIRDS.

THE ONES FLYING FREE ARE TRAINED.

IS THIS THE HOUSE OF BIRDS?

chirp

chirp

AH! IT TALKED!

SHIRO! HOSHI.**

**WHITE STAR

chirp chirp chirp!

SHIRO! TSUKI.*

*WHITE MOON

NIGHTIN-GALES?

--ARE THEY ...

...

THIS IS WHITE MOON. AND THIS ONE'S CALLED WHITE STAR.

SOMETIMES, I SEE TALKING BIRDS IN THE CITY WHEN I GO TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TEMPLE.

IN THIS KIND OF PLACE, UNTIL THE WHITE MOON APPEARS IN FIVE DAYS.

I, TOO...

AM LIKE A BIRD BEING RAISED IN A CAGE...

I'D LIKE TO FLY TO THE MOON

TO ESCAPE.

LET'S FLY TO THE FADED PAST AND THE FUTURE.

I'M EMERALD OF THE HOUSE OF BOOKS. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, MIKAL.

THIS HOUSE OF BOOKS IS ..

A PLACE WHERE OLD BOOKS ARE LOOKED AFTER AND STUDIED.

IT'S A LIBRARY ISN'T IT? THERE'S ONE IN THE TEMPLE TOO.

DO YOU LIKE BOOKS?

I LIKE THEM.

I OFTEN READ.

HOW ABOUT "THE TIME MACHINE"?

DO YOU KNOW IT?

I KNOW IT...
IT'S... A FANTASY STORY.
I LIKE IT VERY MUCH----

THE PROFESSOR WHO BUILT A MACHINE THAT COULD LEAP THROUGH TIME

WENT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.

HE RETURNED TOGETHER WITH A BOY HE RESCUED FROM BECOMING THE GIN'S SACRIFICE.

AND THUS THE CITY OF MONODOR BECAME ABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN.

ALSO THERE'S ANOTHER ENDING WHERE THE RESCUED BOY ACCOMPANIES HIM AND RETURNS WITH MOTHER .

IT WAS WRITTEN BY SOMEONE CALLED H.G. WELLS.

"THE TIME MACHINE" IS A STORY THAT WAS WRITTEN ROUGHLY 1000 YEARS AGO.

HERE, THIS IS AN ORIGINAL COPY.

IT'S JUST A STORY.

Author's note. the SF novel "The Time Machine" by H.G. Wells (1866-1946).

Translator's note This version is different from the original novel. The author probably intended this to be the Marginal world's version of the story.

THE PERSON THAT THE PROFESSOR RESCUED AND BROUGHT BACK FROM THE FUTURE,

WAS A "WOMAN".

A "WOMAN"?

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM US "MAN".

THEY BEAR CHILDREN.

THE ONE WE CALL MOTHER IS A BIT DIFFERENT.

MOTHER?

ONCE,

CHILDREN? THEN MOTHER...?

A LOT OF "MOTHERS"?

THERE WERE LOTS OF "WOMEN".

ABOUT 50!?

MORE.

WELL THEN...

AB... ABOUT FOUR OF THEM?

A LOT... THEN..

SAID TO BE "WOMEN".

HALF OF THE POPULATION WERE...

HALF!

WHICH COULD BE EITHER MALE OR FEMALE.

WHEN THEY REACHED ADULTHOOD, THEY BORE ONE CHILD A YEAR.

SO NATURALLY THERE ONCE EXISTED "WOMEN" WHO WEREN'T "MEN".

THEY'RE ALL MALE OR FEMALE BY BIRTH.

DOGS, CATS, BIRDS AND THE LIKE,

BUT IT'S ONLY DURING OUR TIME AS IROKO THAT SOMEONE CAN BE A MOTHER.

WHEN SHE IS NO LONGER LIVING; ONLY THEN DOES THE NEXT MOTHER AWAKEN.

MOTHER IS IN A STATE SIMILAR TO SLEEPING.

HUMANS LIVED IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY WHERE ONLY ONE PERSON BECOMES THE MOTHER.

BUT I WAS TAUGHT BY THE TEMPLE'S TEACHERS THAT...

JUST LIKE THE SOCIETY OF BEES.

THAT'S A STORY OF A LONG TIME AGO... FROM LONG BEFORE THE PRIMITIVE AGES EVEN.

BUT ...

SUCH THINGS... HOW CAN THAT BE? SAYING WE'RE ALL LIKE ANIMALS ...

THAT'S WHY ...

THIS MONODOR'S ...

17

WHEN IN REALITY IT'S SOMETHING WHICH ONLY CAME TO PASS 1000 OR 500 YEARS AGO.

HAS LONG BEEN PORTRAYED AS BEING PART OF MANKIND'S HISTORY FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

WORLD WITH A SINGLE MOTHER AND MANY MEN...

WHAT ...?

A... CHANGE?

BUT ...

AT SOME POINT SOMETHING CHANGED.

WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY DID THEY HAVE?

WHAT KIND OF LIFE DID THEY LEAD?

CAN YOU IMAGINE? THOUGH IT'S HISTORY THAT HAD HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO, "MEN" AND "WOMEN" COEXISTED ONCE.

"WOMEN" DISAPPEARED.

THIS PERSON S CRAZY.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

dizzy

I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THIS BEFORE.

UNTIL NOW NO ONE HAS TOLD ME ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

...

ARE YOU SHOCKED?

AT THAT TIME NO-ONE STUDIED THE OLD DOCUMENTS.

THE LIBRARY ONCE WAS A SINGLE SECTION OF THE I NNER TEMPLE.

THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCESS ..

WHY DID THEY LEAVE?

WHERE DID THEY GO TO. .?

WITH THE NAMES OF THE QUEEN AND THE KING.

IT'S A PICTURE OF A MURAL,

THIS LITHO-GRAPHY IS 5000 YEARS OLD.

THEN ABOUT 300 YEARS AGO, THE LIBRARY WAS MOVED TO THIS HOUSE.

THE MEDICAL CENTER...

GAINED A LOT OF POWER.

I LIKE TALKING TO THE VISITORS WHO COME HERE.

WE'RE FORBIDDEN TO SPREAD THIS OUTSIDE.

THE CENTER DIDN'T BAN THE BOOKS COMPLETELY,

I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT THEY WERE SAID TO BE A NECESSITY FOR THE CITY.

HAVING A CHILD EVERY YEAR ... LIKE ANIMALS...

THAT HALF OF THE POPULATION WERE MOTHERS

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEM...

BUT... SUCH... THINGS...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT MONODOR'S HISTORY IS FAKE? THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW ISN'T TRUE?

BECAUSE IT'S HUMANITY'S TRUE HISTORY.

THEN WHY TELL IT TO ME AT ALL?

IT'S FINE BY ME WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

CLACK

MONODOR, AS IT IS, EXISTS.

IS TRUE TOO.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW ..

EDMOS.

BOTH ARE REAL.

GULP

NICE TO MEET YOU, MIKAL.

EDMOS, HE GOT SCARED OF YOUR FIREY RED APPEARANCE. HE MUST THINK THAT WE RAISED A RED-HAIRED MONSTER IN THIS LIBRARY AS WELL, TO HUNT THIS LITTLE BIRD.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, AFTER HEARING THIS HISTORY?

THE WORLD, AND THE FUTURE, ARE BORING TO THOSE WITHOUT DREAMS.

THIS IS A HOUSE OF THE PAST WITHOUT BOUNDS.

THIS IS THE HOUSE OF THE DREAMBIRD WHICH IS LOST IN A REVERIE.

EMERALD

...

I... DON'T UNDERSTAND ...

DO THEY EVEN HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO WHAT I HAVE TO STUDY.

HOW. THESE ARE THINGS FROM LONG AGO..

WILL THEY STAY HIDDEN IN FUTURE MONTHS?

..

AS FOR THE WOMEN OF THE PAST ..

MIKAL,

AT THE MOMENT WE'RE AT A CROSSROADS BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

WHEN YOU KNOW THE PAST, THE FUTURE WILL BE CLEAR TO YOU AS WELL.

*Author's note. "Times of the Amazon" is the Japanese translation of "Consider Her Ways" a SF short story by John Wyndham published in 1956.

"TIMES OF THE AMAZON"*, A FANTASY NOVEL WRITTEN ROUGHLY 1000 YEARS AGO.

THIS IS...

IT APPEARS TO MEAN "WOMEN'S COUNTRY"

THE PAPERS ARE LOOSE AND DISCOLOURED, AS IF THE STORY WAS OFTEN READ AND ANALYSED CLOSELY

DO YOU KNOW THE WORD "AMAZON"?

NO.

WOMEN USED TO BE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD; WHY DID THEY DISAPPEAR?

FRANKLY, WE DON'T KNOW THE CAUSE.

BUT LOOK AT THIS EXAMPLE.

EH...?

HUH ...?

IN SHORT IT'S A STORY ABOUT A CITY WHERE MEN HAVE VANISHED AND ONLY WOMEN REMAIN.

YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF OUR WORLD.

THEY FORMED A SOCIETY MADE UP OF ONLY WOMEN.

MEN AND WOMEN CO-EXISTED BUT THE MEN GOT SICK AND DIED OUT.

THE WOMEN SURVIVED.

...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

ONLY THE MEN SURVIVED, RIGHT...?

IN THIS WORLD, THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT MADE THE WOMEN DIE OUT.

DIDN'T THEY SAY THAT YOU LOOK LIKE A "GIRL"?

SOMETIMES...

YOU HAVE PROBABLY MET WITH THE CENTER'S PEOPLE AT THE TEMPLE, HAVEN'T YOU, MIKAL?

THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE CENTER HAS MANY WORDS CONCERNING WOMEN.

...

IT'S THE WORD USED FOR YOUNG WOMEN.

IT WAS BECAUSE I'M STILL AN IROKO.

THEY DID.. IT'S THE CENTER'S MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY.

...THIS CONVERSATION HAS ALREADY GONE ON FOR TOO LONG... LET'S CONTINUE ANOTHER DAY.

THE CENTER'S MOTHER IS A MYSTERY THOUGH.

THE CENTER KNOWS ABOUT WOMEN TOO.

A SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF TIME HAS PASSED.

IF YOU COULD LIVE TO A HUNDRED YEARS OLD,

THINK OF HOW MANY DESIRES YOU'D BE ABLE TO FULFILL.

--A HUNDRED YEARS!?

THERE ARE THOSE TO WHOM IT'S TOO LONG.

EVEN WITH A LIFE OF 30 YEARS ...

THE NEXT TIME YOU COME, WE'LL PROBABLY SHOW YOU THE TEXTS OF THE PAST.

OR MAYBE STORIES ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED TO BE A HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

THE MOON HAS GONE DOWN ALREADY.

MASTER MIKAL, IS YOUR FATHER WELL?

SOMETHING THEY SAID AT THE END...

THE MYSTERY REGARDING MOTHER?

THIS WAY.

THIS IS IT FOR NOW.

A LONG TIME AGO I WAS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT YOUR FATHER.

HE CAME HERE ABOUT SEVEN TIMES.

YES. WHAT ABOUT FATHER?

YOUR FATHER WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED AS WELL, MASTER MIKAL...

I REMEMBER THAT WE WERE BOTH UNUSUAL.

MOST PEOPLE ONLY VISIT THE LIBRARY ONCE.

NEZ.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE.

IN THE PAST, YOU NEVER WANTED TO FOLLOW CONVENTIONS.

IF I CAN'T FLY TO THE SKY,

EVEN THEN I COULDN'T HELP BUT WANT TO LEAVE.

YES... I WANT AN IROKO TOO.

EME-RALD ...

THE MAYOR'S SON IS CUTE; HE'S LIKE A LITTLE BIRD.

DO YOU ENJOY TEASING ME WITH SUCH WORDS?!

WILL PLUCK MY FEATHERS.

A BOORISH BEAST...

IT'S LIKE THAT, ISN'T IT?

I FEEL LIKE I WAS IN THAT HOUSE FOR A WHOLE MONTH.

LOOK CAREFULLY AT WHERE YOU'RE WALKING.

...

I HAVE... ONLY ONCE.

NEZ, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TAUGHT INSIDE THE LIBRARY?

HOW DO I SAY IT...

HOW WAS IT?

THINGS I SHOULD KNOW?

THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

IT FELT LIKE THE PAST HAS BEEN WORN TO MERE DUST.

IN THE PAST THERE WERE LOTS OF WOMEN.

IN MYTHS AND LEGENDS THERE WAS TALK OF MANY DRAGONS TOO.

WELL THEN, DO THEY KNOW WHY THE POPULATION OF THE CITY KEEPS DECREASING?

IF THERE ISN'T A SINGLE MOTHER, THERE WON'T BE ANY CHILDREN.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER ANYWAY?

THINGS ABOUT THE FUTURE...

THE FUT-URE?

DO THE LIBRARIANS KNOW THE FUTURE WHEN THEY LEARN ABOUT THE PAST?

IN A PERIOD OF 33 YEARS, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON AVERAGE FIRST INCREASED THEN DECREASED.

WHEN THE POPULATION RECORD OF MONODOR IS INSPECTED AT THE TEMPLE'S OFFICE...

THAT'S THE THING THAT IS MOST IMPORTANT ...

IT HAS CONTINUED... FOR TEN YEARS ALREADY.

STATUS QUO RESTORES ITSELF. HOWEVER, THIS TIME...

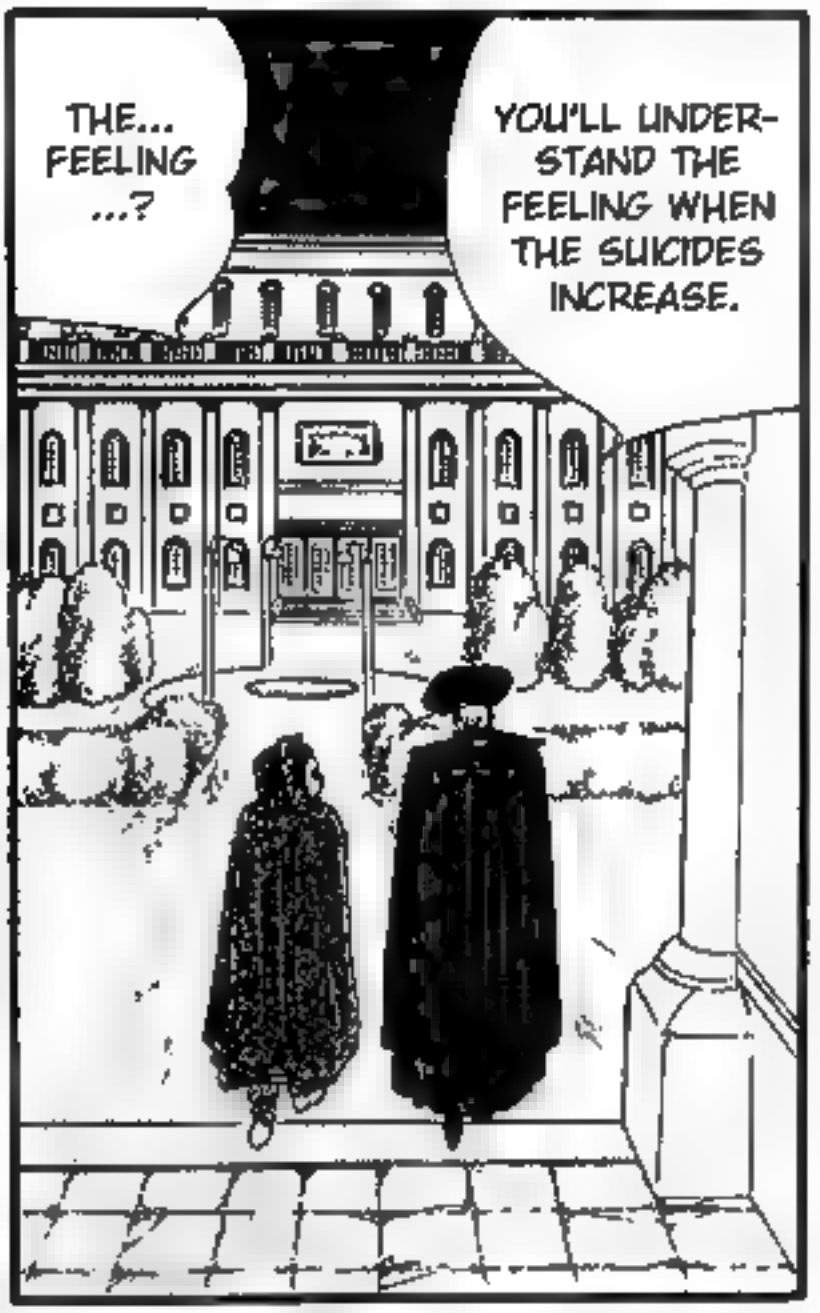
WHEN THE CONDITIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARE BAD, ILLNESS IS RIFE AND THE CHILDREN BORN ARE FEW; THIS SITUATION USUALLY CONTINUES FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF 5-6 YEARS BEFORE THE STATUS QUO RESTORES ITSELF.

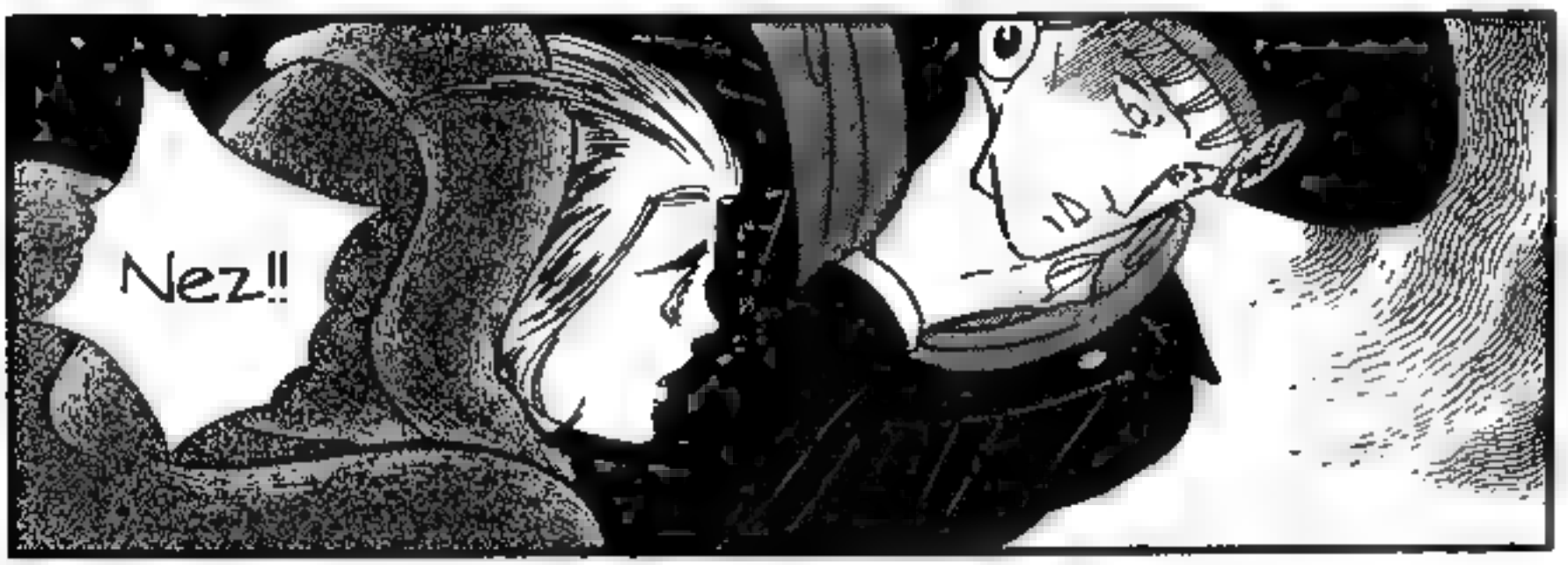
...

SUDDENLY... YOU BECOME AWARE.
OF SILKEN THREADS... GRADUALLY TIGHTENING AROUND YOUR NECK....

THAT YOU CAN'T BREATHE.

CAN'T...


THE... FEELING ...?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THE FEELING WHEN THE SUICIDES INCREASE.


Nez!!

NEZ.

IT'S ONLY 10 DAYS UNTIL THE FULL MOON, RIGHT?

BECAUSE SOON A NEW MOTHER'LL BE BORN, YOU'LL SEE.

...YES.

ARE YOU ILL? NEZ?

I APOLOGIZE.

THAT'S ALRIGHT, NEZ.

I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO LISTEN TO SUCH STRANGE RAMBLINGS.

WELCOME BACK, YOUNG MASTER.

UNDERSTOOD.

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH YOUR FATHER AT 4 IN THE AFTERNOON TOMORROW.

THANK YOU.

GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD NIGHT.

SURPRISE

SIGH

SOMEHOW, NOT WANTING TO LIVE...

SOME THINGS FEEL HEAVY...

AH!?

...

WH...

WHO'S THERE?

WE HAVE CLASS TOGETHER ON TUESDAY.

BUT HIS LOOKINGS SHOW OFF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEVENTH DISTRICT

IT'S THAT KID! THE ONE WHOSE BROTHER JUMPED FROM THE TOWER THIS EVENING.

...

THE CENTER HAS...

...

WHAT WAS HIS NAME? MAYBE

RON?

RO...

...!?

...TAKEN ALLJON AWAY.

THE CENTER'S ENTRANCE HAS BEEN CLOSED.

YOU CAN'T PASS THAT DOOR WITHOUT A CENTRAL KEY.

IF YOU CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, IT'LL OPEN FOR SURE. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE COMING.

ISN'T THERE ANYONE AT YOUR LODGINGS? BROTHERS? YOUR FATHER?

TAKEN...? WHY...?

TAKEN. .? WHY .? NO ONE.. IT'S NOT IN MY NATURE TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING.

BUT BECAUSE HE COMMITTED SUICIDE I GOT SCARED.

...

SO DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME? YOU'LL GET COLD SPENDING THE NIGHT OUT HERE, RONI...

MY LODGINGS ARE UP THERE, YOU CAN SEE THE DOOR, WHEN IT OPENS, FROM MY COURTYARD WINDOW.

BECAUSE HE COMMITTED SUICIDE... THEY MUST INSPECT HIS HEAD....

WHY?

THE CENTER WILL INSPECT MUJON.

THANK YOU, WE'LL HAVE OUR MEAL IN MY ROOM.

YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO HAVE DINNER NOW

YES, THIS IS RONI FROM MY TUESDAY CLASS. HIS FLAT IS IN THE 7TH DISTRICT.

IS HE A FRIEND, MASTER MIKAL?

IT'S OVER HERE.

HE CAME TO STAY OVER. COULD YOU PLEASE INFORM THE TEACHER FROM THE 7TH DISTRICT?

IT'S BECAUSE HE COULDN'T GET A CHILD.

DO YOU KNOW WHY HE KILLED HIMSELF?

HE'S CLIMBED THAT TOWER SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE TODAY.

I ALWAYS GOT HIM TO STOP BY PULLING ON HIS MANTLE.

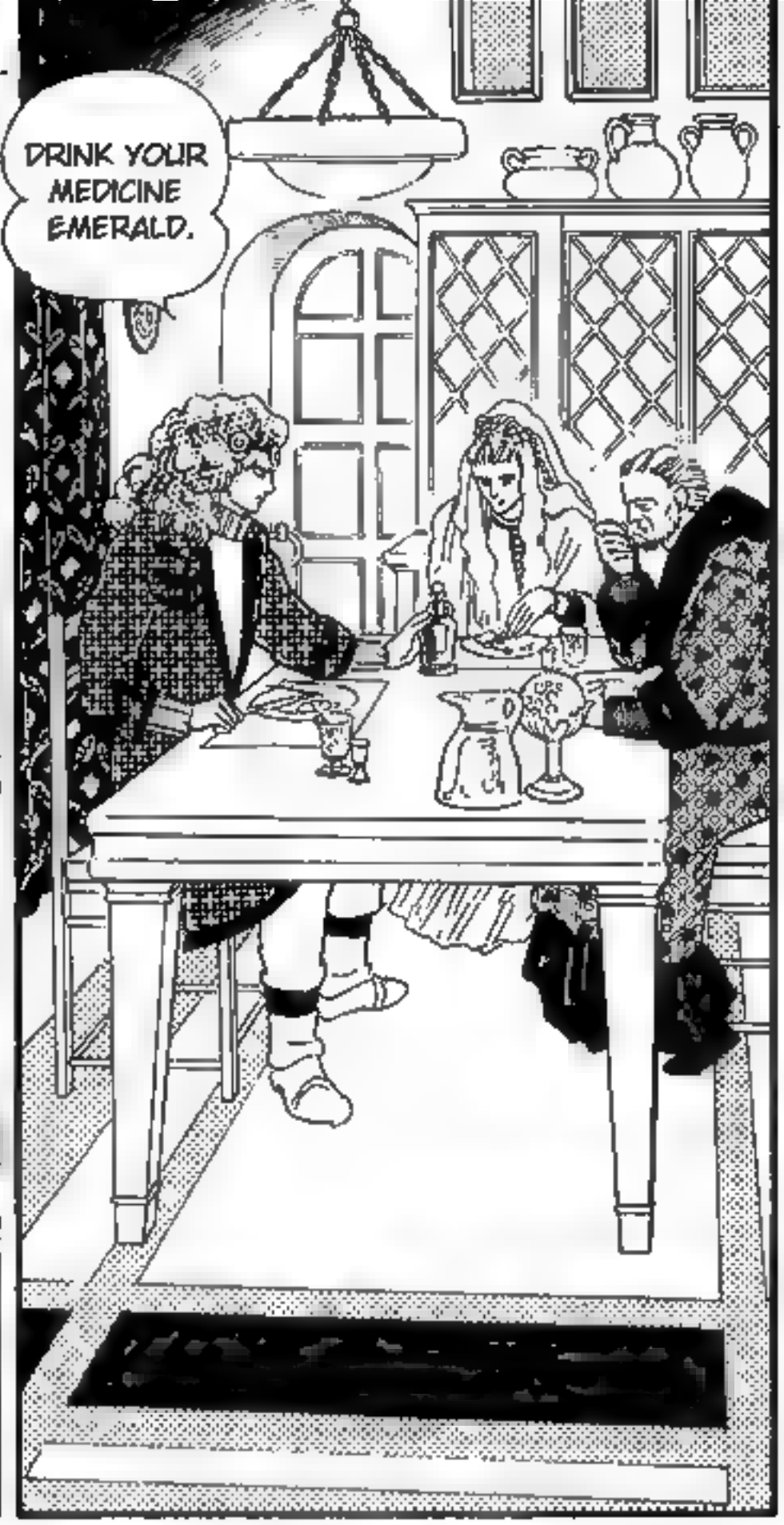
RONI ...

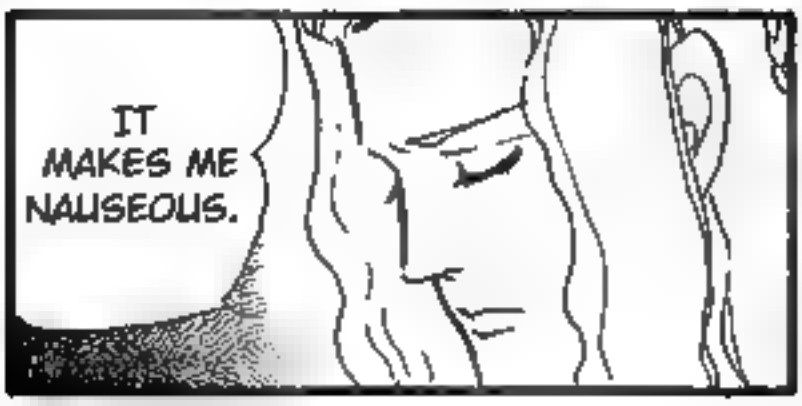
AND THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY CHILDREN BORN ANYMORE.

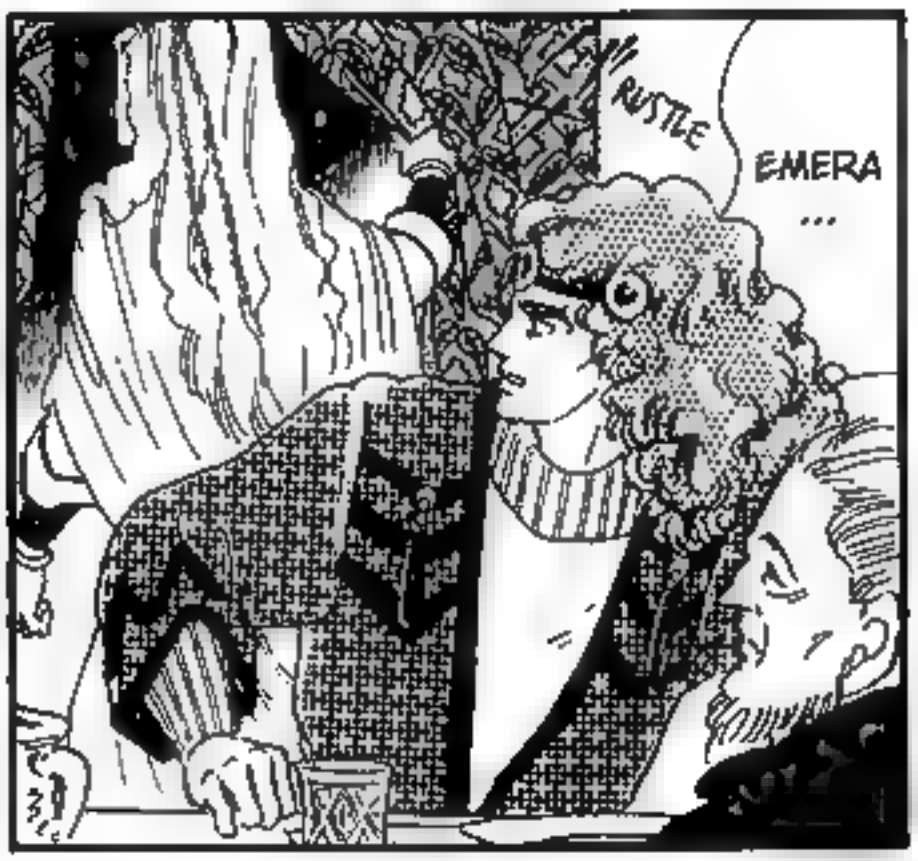
BECAUSE MOTHER SUDDENLY DIED...

HE BECAME DISCOU-RAGED.

Translator's note: the kanji tell me it's an alcoholic beverage for medicinal purposes.







WHY AM I BEING WATCHED ALL THE TIME?

WHEN I GO OUTSIDE, WHEN I'M IN THE ADJACENT ROOM, EVEN WHEN I BREATHE!

EME-RALD ...

AM I YOUR DOLL?

EVEN WHEN I'M NOT SICK!

I GET ANXIOUS.

... BUT, IF I CAN'T SEE YOU ...

WHER-EVER YOU GO.

YOU FOLLOW ME?

YOU'RE NOT READY TO LEAVE YET... TO START FLYING...

YOU ANYMORE.

SOMEHOW, LATELY...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...

EH?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

FROM THE IROKO LODGINGS 4 YEARS AGO, EDMOS.

AS A TWIN HE'D BEEN BETTER LEFT THERE.

IT WAS YOU WHO PULLED EMERALD...

HAVING HIM DISLIKE ME IS STILL BETTER THAN...

EVER SINCE THEN YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN ANY KIND OF GOOD MOOD.

I'VE SHOWN IT TO YOU, IT SAYS HE WON'T LIVE LONG.

... IF HE WERE TO KNOW THE TRUTH TO ANY EXTENT!

...IT CAME HALF A YEAR AGO.

HOW ABOUT I SHOW EMERALD HIS CENTER DIAGNOSTIC CHART?

YOU CAN'T!

ELDER SAKI...!

YOUR FEARS WILL TORMENT EMERALD.

WOULD IT BE BETTER?

scrape

cre...ak

DOESN'T IT SOUND A BIT LIKE A VENTILATION FAN...?

STRANGE... ISN'T THAT THE SOUND OF A MACHINE?

HOW ODD.

THE LIBRARY'S LIKE A NARROW BIRD CAGE.

chirp

chirp chirp

IN A NARROW WORLD, YOU GET HURT WHEN YOU STRUG -GLE.

GOOD NIGHT.

creak creak creak

?

CREAK

EH...

WH...

WHACK

CLUNK

UGH ...

WHAT ...?

WHO ...?

chirp

chirp

chirp

RATTLE

chirp

IT'S THIS ONE?

THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T HURT HIM.

THUD

Emerald!?

chirp chirp chirp

Whistle Whistle

Who are you!?

Emerald!

Hold it!

WHAT'S HAPPE-NING?

WHAM

whistle whistle

CHIRP

SMACK

SOMEONE'S COMING!

HURRY!

SURPRISE

LOCK IT!

WA...
WAIT...

GRAB

GRIND

THERE'S NO HELPING IT!

GRAB

BANG

Eme-
rald

WHACK

EDMOS!?

EMERALD...

WHO'S... INSIDE?

HE WAS KIDNAPPED ...!

BUT THERE... THAT'S A WALL!

HE'S BANGING ON IT WITH AMAZING STRENGTH, ISN'T HE?

BANG BANG

CAN HE BREAK THROUGH?

THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND PASSAGES STILL REMAIN STRONG.

THIS SECRET PASSAGEWAY HASN'T BEEN USED IN A HUNDRED YEARS BUT...

I'VE JUST LOCKED IT.

chirp

chirp

THE BIRDS GOT INSIDE.

IGNORE THEM.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO KILL HIM WITH A SINGLE SHOT.

IT WOULD BE UNPLEASANT IF THIS SECRET PASSAGE WAS FOUND.

HE'S THE SHORT-LIVED KIND ANYWAY.

chirp chirp

WELL, IT'S THE START OF ONE LARGE SWINDLE.

HE PROBABLY WON'T SURVIVE, BLEEDING LIKE THAT...

BANG

WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THIS!

BANG

DAMN IT, OPEN THIS!

YOU'RE BLEEDING

EDMOS ..

IT IS SUCH,

THAT WITHOUT MOTHER,

NOT A SINGLE TOWN CAN SURVIVE.

WHIII!--

NO MATTER WHERE ANYONE GOES IN DOME CITY IT'S THE SAME.

IT SHATTERED.

IT'S THE BOTTLE OF MEDICINE IN MY POCKET.

THAT ISN'T BLOOD.

Shiro, shiro

C-hirp chirp!

Tsuki

chirp

Hagio Moto

Marginal

Chapter 5

Translator
ellin_trix

Editors
manga_mongrel

Cleaner
white_foxes

Typesetter nananeechan

Fin. Panzer

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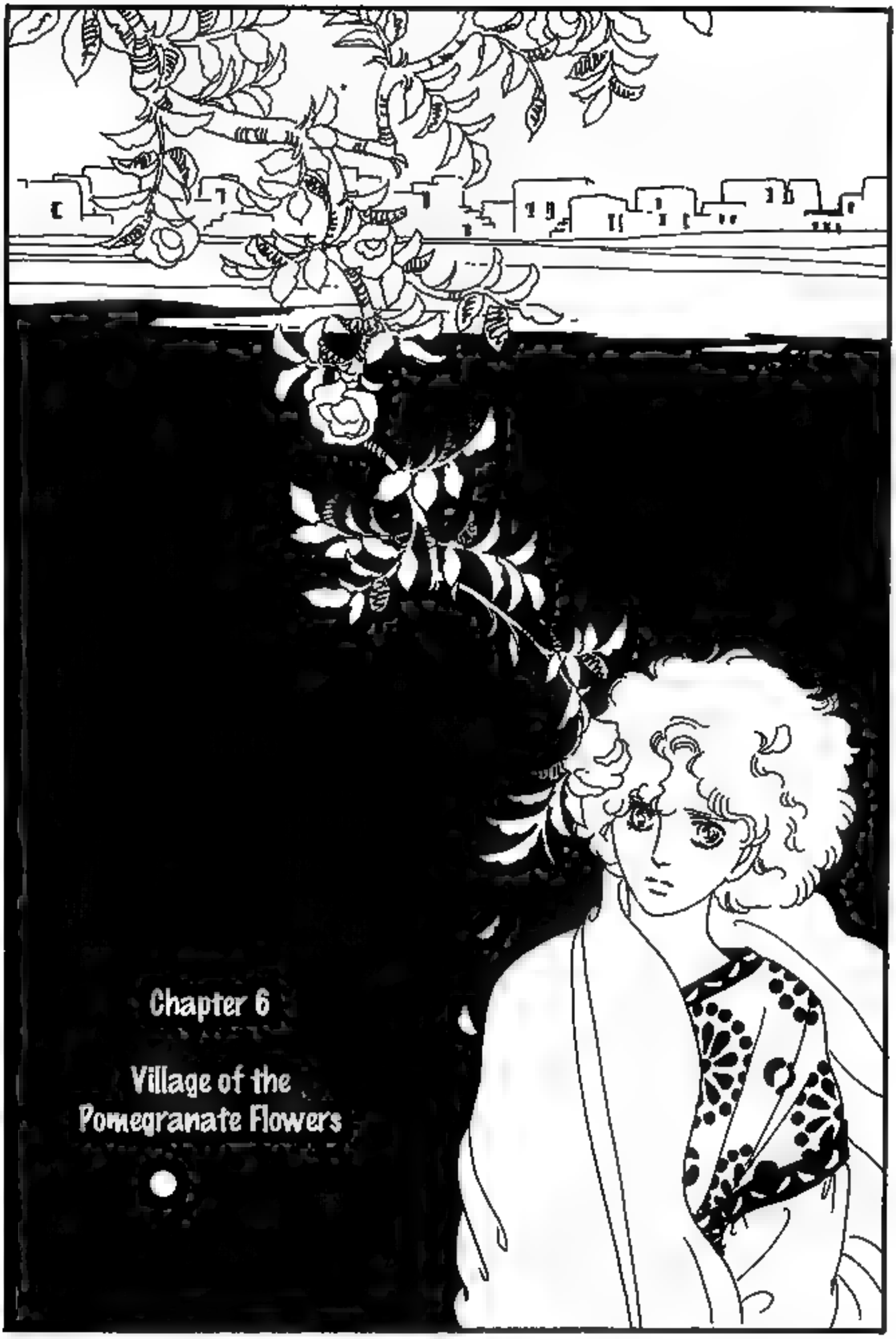

Chapter 6
Village of the
Pomegranate Flowers

WHAT COULD THIS BE?

THIS

SUDDENLY, IN FRONT OF MY VERY EYES, EVERYTHING IS PASSING

IT SEEMS LIKE I KEEP SEEING THOSE

BUDDING SPROUTS...

WHAT'S GOING ON

IN THIS WORLD?

THAT'S THE TOWN.

IT'S WHERE I GREW UP, HANA-ZAKURA, THE VILLAGE OF THE POMEGRANATE FLOWERS.

WHY...

DON'T I...

RECOGNISE ANYTHING?

HOOOH, IS THAT YOU ASHI-JIN!?
ASHI-JI-N!
THOSE ARE THE HOLY MEN. THEIR NUMBERS HAVE BEEN INCREASING OVER THE LAST 2 TO 3 YEARS.
THEY'RE FROM THE SOUTH.
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?
WHERE IS THE CHIEF?
ONE BY ONE THEY COME HERE.

OF COURSE HE'LL BE GLAD! YOU'RE HIS ONLY SON!

WHY'S THAT?

COME, THE CHIEF'S ALREADY AWAKE.

SON?

FEROPEH

HAS IT BEEN A YEAR, ASHIJIN?

THE CHIEF'LL SURELY BE GLAD TO SEE YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

NOW HIS SON'S FEROPEH.

I WAS HIS PREVIOUS SON.

YOU'RE THE SON OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF?

THEN WILL YOU BECOME THE VILLAGE CHIEF?

sfx rustle

OH?

I'M AN ADOPTED SON.

ASHIJIN IS THE OFFICIAL SON WHOM FATHER RECEIVED AS PROMISED BY HOLY MOTHER.

ASHIJIN?!

CHIEF.

YOU KNOW I WAS RIGHT THERE INSIDE THE TEMPLE WHEN IT HAPPENED?
BUT THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION NOW WITH MOTHER'S DEATH CAUSING SUCH AN UPROAR...
FOR A WHILE I WONDERED IF I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE CITY
AT LEAST UNTIL WE RECEIVED A CHILD.

sfx: clunk

I SAW IT WITH THESE VERY EYES...

MY GUEST

WHO ARE THEY?

AND MY IROKO.

MOTHER COLLAP-SED....

sfx: clunk

...

THAT DAY AT THE TEMPLE...?

!?

BLUE TATTOOS

YOU...

NOW WHERE DID WE MEET...?

IS ANYTHING THE MATTER WITH GRINJA?

THOSE BLUE TATTOOS IN THE CORNER OF HIS EYES ARE JUST UNUSUAL...

NO, NO.

I MET HIM AT THE BAZAR OF KUROK. HE'S A DOCTOR.

I ASKED HIM TO TREAT THE INJURIES OF THE IROKO I BOUGHT.

HO, IS THAT SO?

WHAT TRIBE ARE YOU FROM...?

PLEASE DO AS YOU WISH, ASHIJIN, AND YOUR GUEST AS WELL.

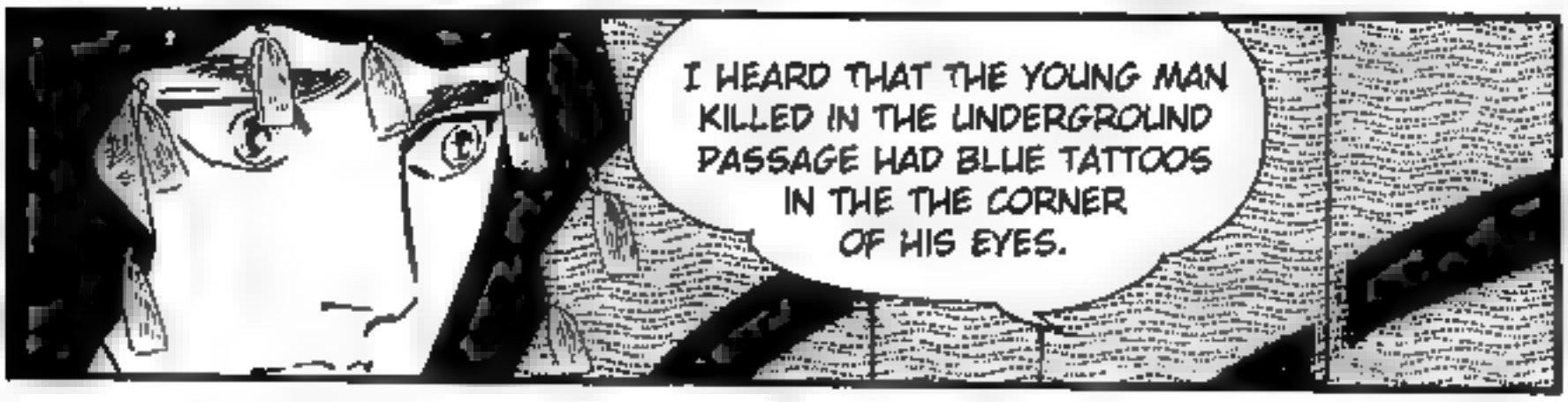
I CAN TELL YOU THE STORY OF THE TEMPLE LATER.

HERE'S THE ICE AND HONEY FOR THE CHIEF.

OK, I'LL BRING IT TO HIM.

PLEASE GO OUT AHEAD OF ME.

THE STORY OF THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS KILLED IN THE INNERMOST PART OF THE TEMPLE UNDERGROUND?
IT HAPPENED ON THE SAME DAY MOTHER DIED.
CAN YOU REMEMBER...


I HEARD THAT THE YOUNG MAN KILLED IN THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE HAD BLUE TATTOOS IN THE THE CORNER OF HIS EYES.

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU TOLD US THAT STORY COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE CITY, FEROPEH.
PERHAPS THEY WERE FRIENDS.
AT THE TEMPLE?
THE MAN WITH THE BLUE TATTOOS,
YOU MET HIM.

THEY SAY...
WHAT DID THE YOUNG MAN WHO DIED IN THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE DO?
THAT HE KILLED MOTHER!

sfx matter

SPK BAM

B"

ASHI-J-IN!

HERE IS THE ICE!

ASHIJIN, IF YOUR GUEST DID...

OF COURSE IT'S ONLY A RUMOR...

STOP IT, FEROPEH!

WAIT.

ASHIJIN.

MOTHER WAS MURDE-RED? DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!

WARDS AGAINST DEMONS ARE BEING SOLD AND RUMORS ARE FLYING ---

SO YOU RETURNED AFTER THE CITY POISONED YOUR MINDS!

THANK YOU FOR THE ICE.

WE DRANK SAKE TOGETHER, SO LET'S BE MERRY FOR DAYS TO COME.

TODAY VISITORS FROM MANY VILLAGES CAME, AND

I'M SORRY, PLEASE FORGET WHAT WE SAID.

IT'S REALLY TASTY.

EAT YOUR ICE, FEROPEH.

IT'D BE BETTER TO ARREST HIM.

IF THAT GUEST'S A COMRADE OF THE GUY WHO KILLED MOTHER,

IF HE REALLY IS A FRIEND OF THE GUY FOUND IN THE TEMPLE

HE SHOULD KNOW THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND PASSAGES.

DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF HIM.

WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT ASHIJIN'S GUEST?

sfx ahhhhh

ASHIJIN

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

sfx ohhhhhh

sfx sharan

IT'S THE HOLY MEN.

sfx sharan

... THEY'RE SINGING ...

COMING FROM SOMEWHERE, GOING TO SOME-WHERE...

THEY CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

WHILE THEY'RE HERE ON THE GROUND, THEY'RE ALSO UP IN HEAVEN.

Translator's Note: Grinja's talking about the other city here which makes Ashitin suspicious.

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE WORDS OF THE HOLY MEN.

I UNDER-STAND BITS AND PIECES...

NEVERTHE-LESS, THE CITY HASN'T BURNED DOWN.

THEY'RE SINGING A SONG OF A BURNT CITY.

THE CITY?

MANY PEOPLE DED

VERY FEW SURVIVED

A BIG CITY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESERT BURNED

I DON'T KNOW.

THE CENTER DOESN'T HAVE MOTHER

GRINJA, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE CITY?

THE CENTER AND MOTHER ARE THE CAUSE

GRINJA MEANT

TO MAKE A CHANGE FOR SOMEONE -

TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE FOR SOMEONE.

LET'S REST UPSTAIRS.

WHO WOULD SAY THEY'D KILL THIS WORLD'S ONLY MOTHER?

SFX: kyah mine!

JUUSHI!

WON'T YOU TAKE MY PLACE AS BABYSITTER PLEASE, GULLIVER?

IT'S MELTING WHILE YOU'RE FIGHTING TO EAT IT!

LOOK HERE, DIVIDE IT EQUALLY!

AH, CUNNING!

YOU GUYS, PUT ONLY ONE PIECE AT A TIME IN YOUR MOUTHS.

I'VE JUST BECOME AN ADULT!

I'M NOT READY TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH YOU.

BESIDES, I REALLY HATE BEARDS.

I WANT TO LEAVE MY INHERITANCE TO YOU!

I WANT TO ALWAYS BE WITH YOU FROM NOW ON!

YOU REALLY HATE BEARDS, EH?

FEROPEH!

SFX: GRAB

ASHIJ N.

...HEY... WHA---

ARE YOU THE BABY-SITTER?

YOU'RE DIFFERENT.

LET'S GO.

GULLIVER, WATCH THE BRATS!

IF YOU WANT JUUSHI, HE'S GOT BUSINESS IN THE STORAGE SHED.

STORAGE...?

MMH-HUH.

JU.... JUUSHI...

AT THE INN I WAS ONLY A CARETAKER.

I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT YOU.

DID YOU PLAY WITH CUTE KIDS IN THE CITY?

JUUSHI?

HUH?

AT ASHIJIN'S CAVE,

DID HE TALK WITH HIS GUEST ABOUT SOMETHING?

ABOUT THE CITY MAYBE?

NOTHING.

WHAT IS IT, ASHIJIN?

OH SHIT.

HEY WAIT A MINUTE FEROPEH!

IT SEEMS LIKE THE MOOD GOT SPOILED.

.....

AHN..

WA....

ENOUGH WITH THE TALKING! LET'S DO SOMETHING MORE PLEA -SURABLE.

ABOUT ASHIJIN'S GUEST ---

ASHIJIN ...?

sfx: singing

HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR BUSINESS IN THE STORAGE SHED?

HEY, FEROPEH WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR GUEST.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU WERE HERE.

SO I CAN'T BE COLD TO HIM.

BUT, MY PARTNER WAS THE TOWN CHIEF'S SON

sfx: singing

HIS "REAL SON" IS NEVER HERE!

I'M THE CHIEF'S SON!

ARE YOU JEA--LOUS OF FEROPEH, WHO'S LOVED BY THE CHIEF?

A-AH!

sfx slap

HAH!

sfx dash

YOU SHOULDN'T HIT HIM!

PEOPLE OF HANAZAKURO!

HYAAH!

Translator's note: hanazakuro = pomegranate flower

WE'RE THE PEOPLE FROM BARAIDO VILLAGE!

WE RETURNED FROM THE CITY TO HEAR THE CHIEF'S STORY!

SFX SCUFF

SFX SHUDDER

!

KYAAAH!

HOOOH!

THERE'S AMAZING BEAUTIES IN THIS VILLAGE!

sfx katt

LGH.

HYAH!

WAH!

sfx bam

ASHIJIN, THE ONE WHO ESCAPED DEATH!

YOU... YOU'RE ASHIJIN!

HOW'VE YOU BEEN? IS THAT BEARDY WELL?

I REMEMBER YOU NOW! YOU'RE THE ONES WHO KIDNAPPED MY IROKO AT THE KUROK MARKET!

HAHA! LET'S SEE YOUR FACES!

WHAT'S THE NOISE ABOUT?!

GET BACK, BACK!

A FIGHT?

THEY'RE MEN FROM BARAIDO VILLAGE!

HOW DARE YOU ASK THAT! HE DIED THREE DAYS AFTER HE FELL FROM HIS HORSE!

KEH

SFX OHW

HE DIDN'T VISIT THE CITY!

ASHIJIN IS A MAN OF THE CAVES!

EVERYONE CALM DOWN!

IT'LL BE THE SAME FOR EVERYONE! HE'S THE ONE WHO ESCAPED DEATH!

I WON'T GO IF YOU'RE TOGETHER WITH HIM!

KIRA,

GO BACK TO OUR ROOM.

YOU WHO'VE COME FROM MANY VILLAGES, LET US ACT AS FRIENDS.

KEH

WELL THEN, PLEASE DISMOUNT FROM YOUR CAMELS AND JOIN US FOR TEA.

THIS IS NO EXAGGE-RATION.

SHAM

YOU'RE PRESENCE HERE WAS THE CAUSE FOR THIS UPROAR.

COME, ASHI-JIN!

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S A PILGRIMAGE.

IS EVERYONE GOING TO THE CITY?

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S RIGHT.

TO SEE THE NEW MOTHER?

FOR NOW, THEY'RE OUR GUESTS

THEY'RE THIEVES YOU KNOW!

THOSE GUYS AS WELL?

THEY'RE GOING TO CAUSE RIOTS IN THE CITY! CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

ASHIJIN

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

YOU'RE ACCOMPANYING THOSE YOUNG HOTHEADS TO THE CITY?

...

OH RIGHT. THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASKING THINGS ABOUT MY GUESTS EITHER!

!

YOU'RE A MOUNTAIN MAN.

DON'T MEDDLE IN THE BUSINESS OF THE VILLAGE.

!

ABOUT THAT GUY...

GRINJA?

HE TOLD ME HE HASN'T BEEN TO THE CITY!

BLUE TATTOOS ARE USED IN TRIBES ALL OVER THE PLACE

SO DON'T LUMP MY GUEST TOGETHER WITH THOSE CRIMINALS!

WELL LET'S GO ASK THE CHIEF THEN!

THE CHIEF SAID HE SAW HIM AT THE TEMPLE!

ASHIJIN!!

SHAW

SHAW

SHAW

SHAW

SHAW

HOW WOULD YOU SMASH MY PLAN WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M PLANNING?

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD SMASH YOUR PLAN!

THIS IS THE CHIEF'S SIGN!

!

SHAW

SHAW

SURVIVORS WERE FEW

THE CITY BURNED

THE BUBBLES OF THE SWAMP...

THE SEA...

IT'S THE SEA...

THE SWAMP TRAVELLED, BUBBLED, EVERYONE KEEPS SINKING, SURVIVORS WERE FEW

THE WIND PIERCES, THE TEARS DON'T STOP FLOWING

THE LIGHT WAS LOST

WHERE CAN WE FLEE?

WE SURVIVED, BUT

WHERE CAN WE GO?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KIRA?

DO YOU PERHAPS INTEND TO JOIN THE HOLY MEN?

EH?

IS IT...?

A SIGN...

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE CAUSE...? WHAT IS IT....?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT THE ROOT OF ALL THIS?

IT HAS TO BE STOPPED.

SNAP

SNAP

SNAP

THE CHIEF'S BEEN HAVING DREAMS FOR TWO YEARS

OF THE APOCA-LYPSE COMING.

WHO?

I'LL DESTROY THEM!

THE HEAD OF MONODOR.

...

WHY?

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FRIENDS!

WELL WELL--- DO COME IN!

SFX Bang

WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT WITH THOSE HOLY MEN?

OK THEN, SIT DOWN.

LOOK, THIS IS ASHIJIN'S IROKO!

HE CAN TALK TO THOSE CRAZY HOLY MEN!

HE'S BOUND TO BE INTERES-TING---

THOSE PEOPLE JOURNEYED HERE...

FROM A PLACE FAR AWAY...

THEY CAME HERE BY CROSSING THE SEA...

THEY'RE THE SURVIVORS OF A CITY THAT BURNED DOWN...

SMAK SMAK SMAK

DO YOU SING ALONG TO RANDOM SONGS WITH THOSE DIMWITS?

...RANDOM

... THAT'S NOT

IT'S... LOTS AND LOTS OF WATER.

... IT'S WHERE THERE'S WATER ALL THE WAY TO THE HORIZON

"SEA"?

WHAT'S A "SEA"?

HOW COME THEY HAVEN'T SEEN IT...?

SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME TOBACCO?

LONG AGO IT WAS ABOUT THE SAME BLUE AS THE SKY.

... A BLUE SEA ..?

APPARENTLY THE DREAM ISN'T EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

THREE PEOPLE?

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CHIEF OF THE MONODOR, THEN FIRST, OF COURSE, WE HAVE THE MAYOR.

WHO'S THE "HEAD"?

THE HEAD OF THE CITY...?

IT'S THREE PEOPLE.

AN ASSA-SINA-TION?

THAT'S RIGHT, BY SHOOTING THEM.

THE WORLD IS DYING!

BECAUSE HE'LL BECOME THE MAYOR WHEN THE PRESENT MAYOR DIES.

THEN THERE'S THE MAYOR'S SON

AND THE THIRD PERSON IS THE MEDICAL CENTER'S DIRECTOR.

FOR THE LACK OF CHILDREN BEING BORN IS THESE THREE MEN.

ACCORDING TO THE DREAM, THE MAIN CAUSE,

THE MAR-GRAVE!

FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS WE'VE BEEN PLANNING AN ASSASINATION.

...KILL?

MOST DON'T KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER

COUNTING EVERYONE FROM VARIOUS TOWNS, WE HAVE ABOUT 20 PEOPLE.

WHO HAVE JOINED YOUR PLOT...?

SO THAT THEY CAN'T BETRAY THE REST OF US IF THEY GET CAUGHT.

ALL RIGHT

WE'VE TALKED ENOUGH.

YOU'RE A COMRADE TOO.

DON'T BETRAY US.

ASHIJIN,

...

IF THE CHIEF SAYS HE RECOGNIZES HIM....

IF PERHAPS HE'S A FRIEND OF THE GUY WHO DIED IN THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE,

...

WAIT!

THEN

WE NEED HIM.

AS LONG AS HE KNOWS THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE

EVEN IF HE'S THE ONE KILLED MOTHER,

ABOUT GRNJA...

GRNJA!?

WAS ANYONE THERE!?

...!

SFX: LOOKS BACK

シャン

COME.

I'LL MAKE A REPORT ABOUT YOU TO THE CHIEF.

HOLY MEN? DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM, NOBODY UNDERSTANDS THEIR WORDS.

... WHAT IS IT?

SFX: COUGH

... A POISONOUS ... WIND ...SWEPT ACROSS

SFX COUGH

SFX COUGH

SFX TSK

ALL RIGHT.

コホッ コホッ

AND THEN, WHAT ELSE DID THE HOLY MEN SAY?

INHALE MORE.

OK

NOW SPEAK.

WELL THEN...

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF.

SPEAK!

...THAT'S ALL.

LET ME GO.

sfx thwack

SPEAK!

I DON'T KNOW...

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW...

ANYTHING CONCERNING YOU IS FINE.

FU FU FU

WE WERE ONLY LISTENING TO HIS STORY!

GRINJA!

MAKING SOMEONE WHO ISN'T USED TO INHALE THE SMOKE OF THE WHITE SUKUWA ROOT

CAN INTOXICATE HIM! JUST WHAT WERE YOU ASKING HIM?

HUH! WHY DO YOU CARE? HE ISN'T EVEN YOUR OWN IROKO!

SFX GRAB

SFX BANG!

GYAH!

SFX RIP

I'LL... I'LL BE SURE

TO REMEMBER THIS!

JUUSHI

COUGH

WATER. DRINK IT.

sfx cough

JUST COUGHING A BIT...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WATER.

GO REST A BIT IN OUR ROOM.

AROUND THE TIME I FOUND YOU.

YES.

WATER... BY ANY CHANCE... BEFORE... IN THE DESERT... DID YOU... BRING ME SOME TOO?

YES.

ONLY THEN?

THAT'S RIGHT.

I WAS FOUND IN THE DESERT...?

I HAVE NO MEMORIES FROM THE TIME BEFORE YOU BROUGHT ME WATER...

YOU'RE DRUNK ON THE SUKUWA ROOT.

I CAN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING, SO WHY?

WHY ARE YOU BY MY SIDE?

... WHY?

BUT YOU'RE STILL BY MY SIDE.

WHY?

THERE-AFTER YOU

SOLD ME TO ASHIJIN...

"2999 A.D."

"THE MOON STATION."

YOU CAN TALK TO THE HOLY MEN,

RECITE MYSTERIOUS WORDS...

YOU MUST COME FROM FAR AWAY...

I'M NOT DRUNK.

NO, YOU DO.

...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

ABOUT YOU, I KNOW NOTHING MORE THAN YOU DO.

...

...

ANOTHER WORLD...?

IF BY SOME CHANCE... THEN

...

MAYBE IT'S GOOD

THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING

I THINK THAT...

THERE IS A SO-CALLED HOUSE OF BOOKS IN THE CITY.

...I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY BUT

AND EVEN RECORDS OF DREAM-LIKE WORLDS IN THERE.

THERE ARE MANY RECORDS, PICTURES AND DOCUMENTS.

BOOKS?

PERHAPS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT YOURSELF.

IF YOU VISIT IT AND LISTEN...

IF I STUDY THERE... I'LL REMEMBER

...PERHAPS...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

WHETHER I'M A MONSTER OR SOMETHING ELSE...

WHY I HAVE FANGS....

THINGS FROM THIS OTHER WORLD....

Attention Marco: We have an incoming alert signal.

Translator's note: This was written pre-chip, in the 1970s.

IT'S MOST LIKELY A CELEBRATION.

A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAS GATHERED.

SHOULD WE INFORM DIRECTOR MEYARD?

WHAT IS IT?

THAT'S RIGHT, MARGINAL'S SHORT-LIVED PEOPLE

EACH HAVE A NUMBER PLATE IN THEIR HEADS THAT SENDS OUT A PULSE.

IN A SINGLE GLANCE YOU KNOW WHO'S WHERE, DON'T YOU?

IT'S AN INTERESTING DEVICE ISN'T IT?

AT G-POINT'S #1 HANAZAKURO VILLAGE...

BUT THIS CHARACTER WHO'S IN HANAZAKURO VILLAGE REQUIRES SPECIAL ATTENTION, YES...

DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT EPI-DEMICS.

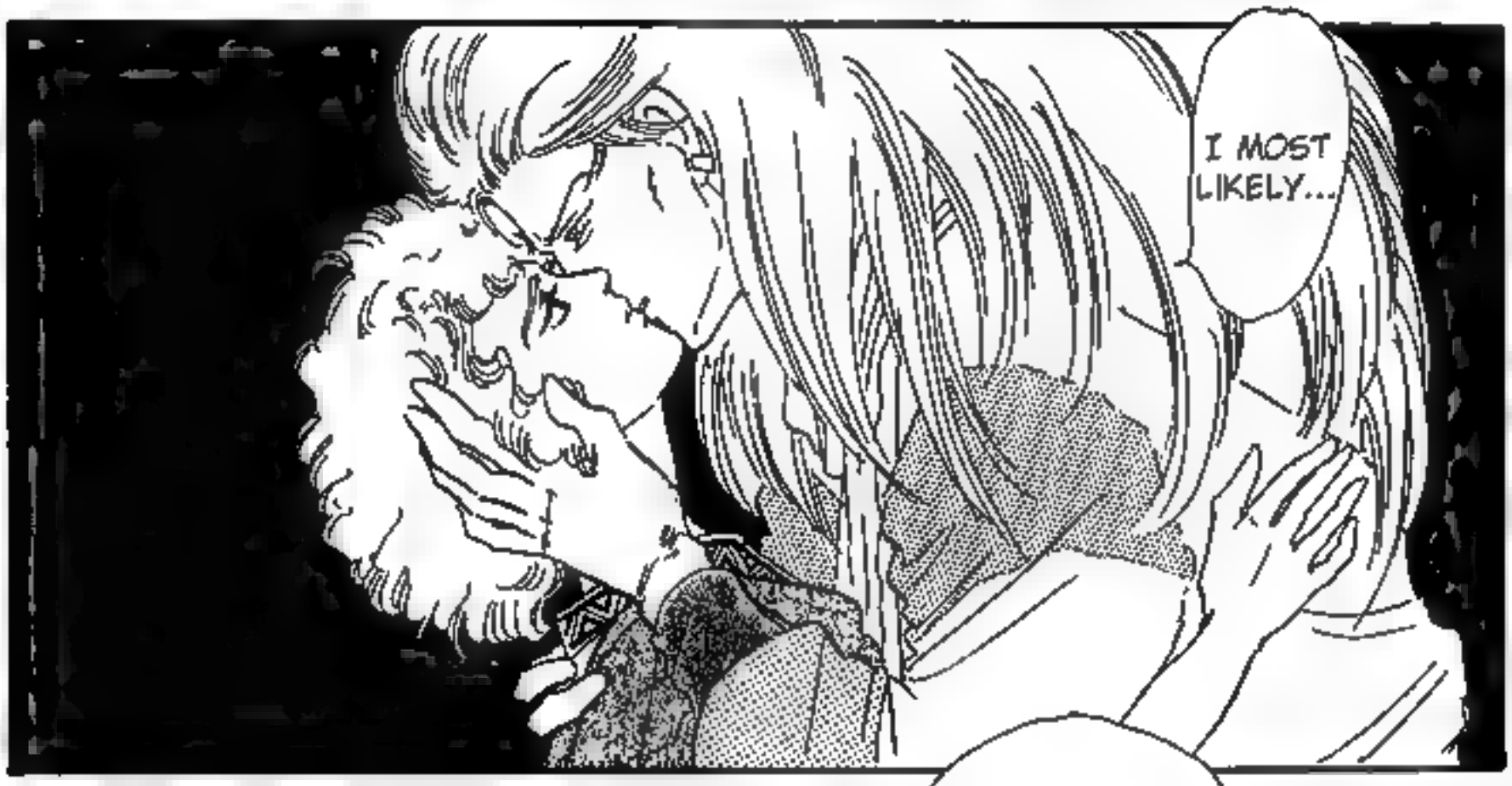
WE KNOW RIGHT AWAY WHO GOES WHERE AND WHERE THEY DIE

THE CONSPI-RATORS WHO KILLED MOTHER!

LOOK AT THIS!

KEEP ME POS-TED.

WITH THESE HANDS...
IF YOU WERE SOMETHING THAT COULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE THEN
IF YOU WERE A MONSTER....


I MOST LIKELY...

WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU...

second anniversary special

Marginal

Chapitre 5

Asajo Moto

2nd anniversary

The Pink Panzer

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The Pink Panzer

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Chapter 1
Two-faced

THE FIRST DREAM STARTED

. 6 TO 7 YEARS AGO.

FROM THE DISTANT SOUTH

BLIND MEN CAME FORTH.

CONTINUOUSLY RECITING A MYSTERIOUS SONG——

THEY POINTED TO THE PLACE...

AT THAT TIME THERE WEREN'T ANY HOLY MEN YET SO I ASSUMED THEY WERE WITH SOMEONE

. BROKEN AND DYING

WHERE I SUDDENLY SAW THE CITY'S GOVERNOR

IT'S AN OMEN!

JUST LIKE IN THE DREAM.

THE FIRST HOLY MEN APPEARED IN TOWN

ABOUT 3 YEARS AGO

THEIR NUMBERS INCREASED AS THE YEARS WENT ON.

AS THEY BECAME MORE NUMEROUS, MY DREAM BECAME CLEARER.

BUT NEVER FOR THIS LONG USUALLY IT'S RESOLVED IN 4 OR 5 YEARS

WHY?

THERE HAS OFTEN BEEN TIMES WHEN CHILDREN WERE SCARCE.

THE CITY WON'T GIVE US A CHILD!

THE VILLAGES POPULATION CAN ONLY DECREASE

THE DREAM HAUNTS ME EVERY NIGHT!

IT'S ALREADY BEEN GOING ON FOR 10 YEARS

SOMETHING MUST BE CAUSING THIS

THE SOURCE IS

ASHIJIN, YOU SPENT ONE YEAR...

...IN THE CITY CENTER, DIDN'T YOU?

HOW ABOUT YOU GO WITH US TO THE CITY?

I SEE. DID FEROPEH TALK TO YOU?

SINCE THEN, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN HAS BEEN DECREASING.

THAT WAS THE YEAR OF THE EPIDEMIC.

...11 YEARS AGO?

...

...

THE SOURCE...

...THE MARGRAVE...

I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM THAT TIME...

YOU WERE RECOVERING FROM A WOUND THAT SPLIT YOUR FOREHEAD, REMEMBER?

...BECAUSE I WAS STILL A CHILD.

SHAN
SHAN
SHAN

IMPOSSIBLE!

I CAN'T GRASP HIS MOTIVES

BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SEEN MOTHER YET.

WOULDN'T THAT BE TERRIBLE?

THE SOLE MOTHER

WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?

THEN IS GRINJA .

.ONE OF THE CONSPIRATORS WHO KILLED MOTHER?

WHILE I WAS LIVING IN THE CAVERN, I DIDN'T GO TO THE YEARLY MOTHER FESTIVAL.

NO, LATELY FESTIVITIES HAVE CEASED IN MOST OF THE VILLAGES.

NOR WAS I PROMISED A CHILD.

THEN CHILDREN CAN'T BE BORN

.DOESN'T HAVE A NEW MOTHER YET

IF THE CENTER.

IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?

IF THE SOURCE S KILLED

WILL EVERYTHING BE RESTORED?

...

...KIRA...
HAS. WOKEN UP

RIGHT?
...
KIRA,
YOU'RE
...

I...
...AM...
...KIRA.
RIGHT.

MY BODY
CORRESPONDED
WITH YOURS...

IS IT
. BECAUSE OF THE LIGHT
THAT T'S LIKE THIS ?
LIGHT...

WAS HE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CHILD BEFORE ?
I CAN'T BUY YOU BACK FROM ASHIJIN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FANGS. .?
YOU'RE...?
THEN SHALL WE GO TO THE CITY'S LIBRARY?

YOUR BODY IS DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE..

...

BEFORE

...

FEVERISH

...

CHANGED

...

...YOUR BODY'S...

?

IT'S KIRA'S GENDER.

IS IT?

...IN ORDER TO MAKE A VOW WITH MOTHER. BUT...

...THEIR BODIES BECOME VERY STRONG AND MANLY..

...THERE ARE OTHERS WHOSE BODIES CHANGE A LOT WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS TOO, BUT .

WHERE SUDDENLY

...

THE MALE PART COMPLETELY VANISHES——?

...

...ONE LIKE YOU. ?

IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING THIS.

IS THAT STRANGE?

BECAUSE YOU TOUCHED ME

KIRA'S GENDER CORRESPONDED

THIS BODY WILL CHANGE BACK SOON.

IT'S ONLY THIS WAY NOW

IT WON'T CORRESPOND TO ANYONE BUT YOU.

flicker

Grinja...!

I'LL BUY HIM BACK

TH...

...

HIS FACE!

grab

Thief!

HE'S MY IROKO!

WAIT ASHIJIN!

CLANG

WHAT WAS THAT FACE!?

SW SH

YOU WERE MY GUEST!

WAIT!

WHAT SHIT ARE YOU PULLING!?

SAG

GRAB

WOBBLE

RRRRIP

UGH

THIS...

ASHIJIN, WHAT'S WRONG!?

Murderer!

RATTLE

THAT GUY'S A THIEF!

THE CITY'S LOOKING FOR HIM!

HE'S A THIEF AND A MURDERER!

THAT'S RIGHT!

HE ATTACKED ME TOO NOT SO LONG AGO!

HE LAID HIS HANDS ON THE IROKO I BOUGHT!

DON'T GO!

GRINJA!

IF HE'S A CRIMINAL...

COME ALONG.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

...THE CHIEF'LL JUDGE HIM!

YOU'RE WRONG!

CHATTER

THAT'S RIGHT!

HE'S A THIEF!

HE'S A ROTTEN OAF!

YOU'RE WRONG!

...HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED IN THIS VILLAGE.

THE PUNISHMENT FOR SOMEONE SLEEPING WITH ANOTHER'S PROPERTY..

stretch

WE SHOULDN'T TROUBLE THE CHIEF WHILE HE'S ILL.

PULL

IT'S TO CRUSH HIS EYES AND DRIVE HIM OUT.

GRINJA!

WOOSH

HE'S A THIEF! HE LAID HIS HANDS ON MY PROPERTY WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!

GRINJA ISN'T LIKE THAT!

HE ISN'T A THIEF!

IT'S ME ...

SEIZE HIM!

WOOSH WOOSH

LOOK CLOSELY!

WHOOSH

ASHIJIN!

SLA-P

Kyaa-aaah

woosh

SLA-P

GRINJA!

Stop!

Stop it!

GRINJA!

Quiet!

WOOSH

SWISH

SLAP

WOOSH

Stop!

SWISH

HYAH

DON'T SCREAM.

STOP!

DON'T!

DO YOU WANT TO GET BEATEN TOO?!

DON'T!

HAH!
HOH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
HOH!
Grinja!
COME!
Drive him out!
To the Desert!
HAH!
HAH!

To the Desert of Death!

HAH!

HOW!

HOW!

RETURN HIM!

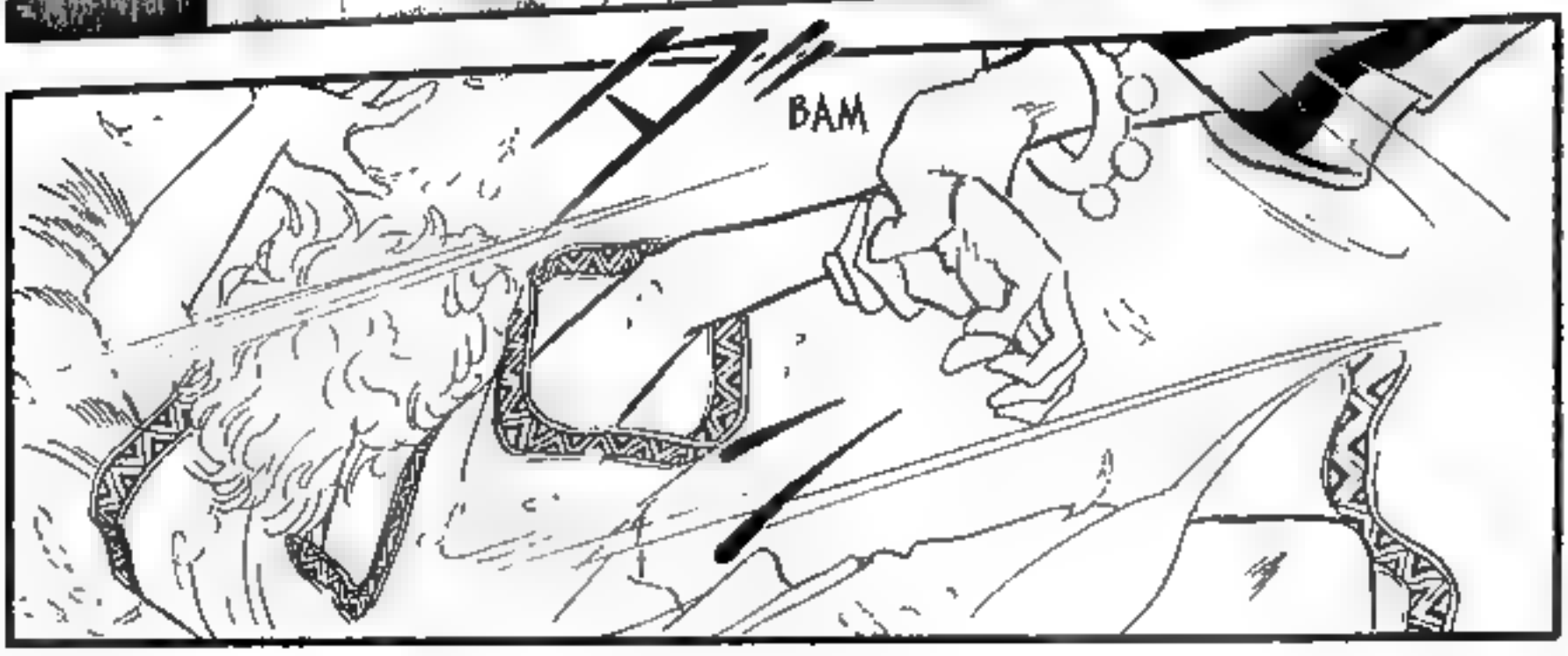
RETURN GRIN-I

GRINJA!

LET GO!

THROB

LET ME GO!
QUIET!


BAM

IS THIS...

...MY THANKS FOR BUYING YOU, FEEDING YOU.

...AND GIVING YOU A PLACE TO SLEEP?

WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?

THOSE FINGERS...

NO, I BOUGHT YOU!

I HAVEN'T BEEN BOUGHT BY YOU OR ANYONE ELSE!

I INTENDED TO WAIT UNTIL YOU GOT USED TO ME.

YOU'RE WHOLLY MINE.

...I WANTED TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH YOU!

...TOGETHER

...BECAUSE IN THIS CAVE..

PULL

BUT I'M *DONE* WAITING!

SHOW ME YOUR FACE!

I'LL KILL YOUR GRIEF!

I'LL HAVE YOU!

JUST NOW I WATCHED AS GRINJA'S HEART WAS SHATTERED.

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

SHOW THAT FACE TO ME TOO.

SHOW ME YOUR FACE!

SHAN

SHAN

SHAN

SHAN

THUD
THUD

ALTHOUGH I WANTED TO MAKE USE OF YOU...

...

...HAVE HEARD THE STORY OF THE ATTACK ON THE CITY.

.. ASHIJIN AND I ..

YOU KNOW ...

I KNOW ABOUT THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND PASSAGE.

YOU'RE ONE OF THE CONSPIRATORS WHO KILLED MOTHER

TELL ME ABOUT IT

I'LL SEND YOU TO WHATEVER VILLAGE YOU WANT TO GO TO.

...AND I WON'T LEAVE YOU TO DIE IN THE DESERT.

TELL ME.

AND THEN WHAT?

pull

!

I'M SURE YOU HAVE A MAP!

I CAN'T SEE, SO HOW COULD I TELL YOU?

MOVE AND I'LL WOUND YOU!

IT ISN'T IN MY POUCH.

puck

WHACK

Guh

THUD

PULL

AH!

SWAP

haa haa

...

. YOU. .CAN'T ..BE A DOCTOR.. WHAT ARE YOU...?

BUT I EXPECT YOU WON'T SUFFER LONG.

BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE, I MISSED THE VITAL SPOT

WHEN WE REALISED OUR TOWN WAS GOING TO DIE OUT.

...WE TRAINED OURSELVES TO REACH OUR GOAL.

JOIN?

...BECAUSE OUR GOAL'S THE SAME...

JOIN HANDS.

YOU GUYS ARE THE SAME AS THE ASSASSINS WE BECAME.

...TO KILL ME AND THEN RETURN TO YOUR VILLAGE ALONE

AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND WAY YOU INTENDED

THAT'D BE FINE IF YOU WERE THE CHIEF OF THAT VILLAGE.

IF I'D MANAGED TO PULL IT OFF...

...THEN I

...EVEN MORE THAN ASHIJIN.

...WOULD BE THE CHIEF'S...

...PROPER SON.

ROLL

...SMOKE THE ROOT OF THE SUKUWA.

DON'T BE STUBBORN.

GRINJA WILL NEVER COME BACK
THEY LEFT HIM IN THE DESERT OF DEATH TO THE SOUTH

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD GET USED TO ME.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TRADING YOU.

HERE.

IT'S SO YOU WON'T FEEL BAD.

...ON THOSE WHO ARE INTOXICATED BY SUKUWA.

THIS TECHNIQUE CAN BE USED...

THIS IS TOP QUALITY SUKUWA.

ANY-WAY

BECOME ONE WHO CAN ONLY THINK OF ME.

...YOU'LL BE IN THE PALM OF MY HAND.

WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?

IF I REPEAT IT QUIETLY IN A LOW VOICE...

YOU'RE MY IROKO. IF YOU WANT ANYTHING, I'LL LISTEN.

SAY SOMETHING.

THE SUKUNA SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE

...GO TO THE CITY ...

...

AND DO WHAT?

DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEET GRINJA IF YOU GO TO THE CITY?

SHOW ME YOUR FACE.

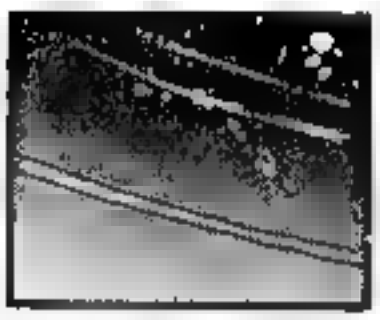
...ABOUT HIM.

FORGET

GIVE UP.

YOU'RE WHAT THEY CALL TWO-FACED.

THAT'S KIRA AND ME...
OUR SUBSTANCE...



KIRA DOESN'T AWAKEN...
...FOR YOU.

AT MOST, IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO HOLD THIS BODY, WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A PURPOSE...

...AND NOW YOU'RE KILLING ME.

WE WISH ALL OF YOU A HAPPY SUCCESSFUL YEAR 2010!

and a happy Happy Hearts Day!

YOUR The Pink Panzer TEAM

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The Pink Panzer

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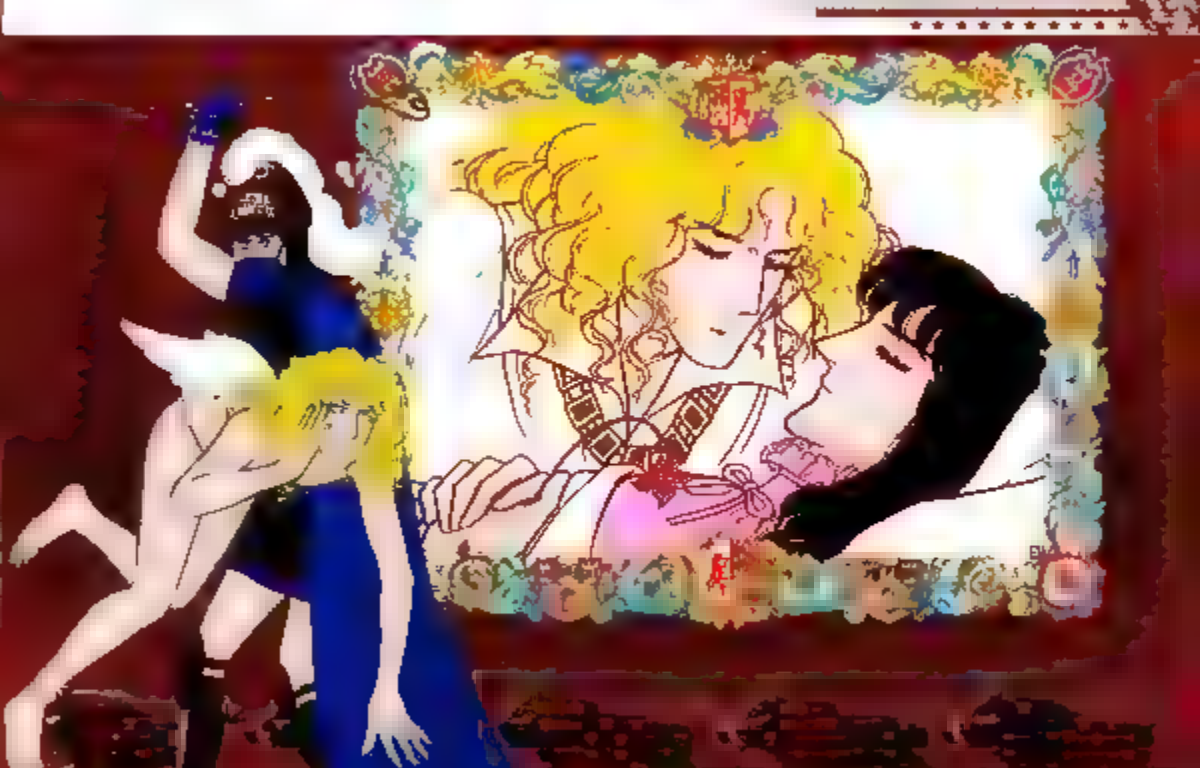
Happy Valentine's Day



The Pink Panzer

. This Valentines Day, come and play a game with us.

We will be waiting for you. - . The . Men of Partners

chapter 8
Requiem

step
step
step
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S FEROPEH!
— SINCE WHEN?
JANGLE
JANGLE
grab
TAKE THIS OFF.
HMMM?

THAT'S TO COMMEMORATE.

scratch

!

ONE NIGHT AND BY DAWN YOU SHOW ME THIS SULLEN FACE AGAIN!?

LAST NIGHT, I THOUGHT I FINALLY ...GOT A GLIMPSE OF THAT FACE,

...OR WAS IT JUST A DREAM SHOWN BY THE SUKUWA?

BAM

ASHIJIN!

BAM BANG

...JIN.

BAM

!

IT'S FEROPEH!

HE WAS KILLED IN THE DESERT!

BY WHOM?

— HE WAS KILLED?

EVERYONE'S AT THE CEMETERY.

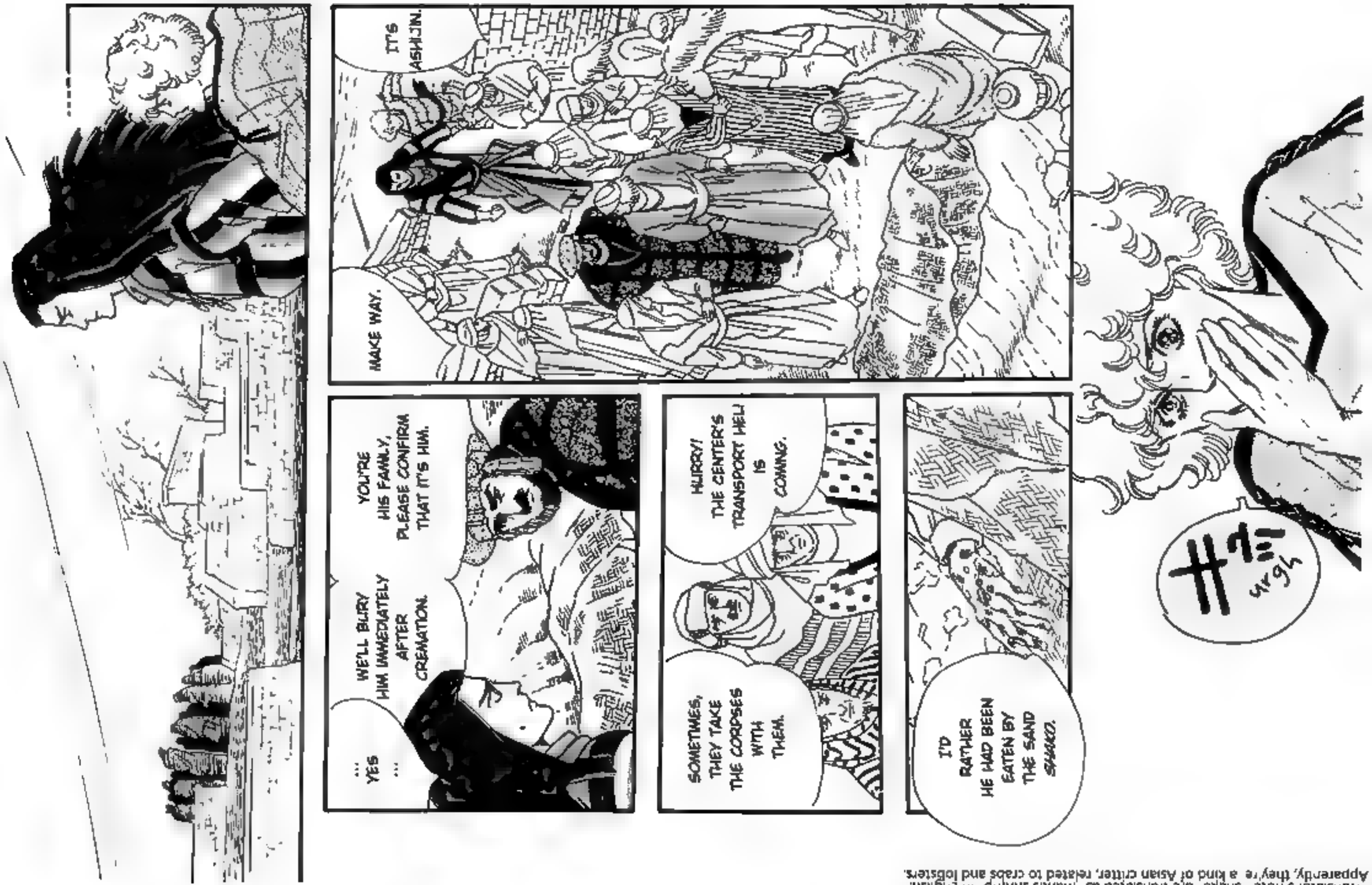
PUT THIS ON!

HURRY!

... AND GRINJA?

THAT GUY'S BEEN KILLED!

Translator's note: "Shako" are translated as "mantis shrimp" in English. Apparently, they're a kind of Asian critter, related to crabs and lobsters.


#31
47
I'D RATHER HE HAD BEEN EATEN BY THE SAND SHAKO.
HURRY!! THE CENTER'S TRANSPORT HELI IS COMING.
SOMETIMES, THEY TAKE THE CORPSES WITH THEM.
... YES ...
WE'LL BURY HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER CREMATION.
YOU'RE HIS FAMILY, PLEASE CONFIRM THAT IT'S HIM.
IT'S ASHIJIN.
MAKE WAY.
...

THEY FLOCK TOWARDS THE SMELL OF BLOOD.

tick

tick

FEROPEH .....!!

...SO I WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM WITH A DOG WHEN DAWN CAME. HE WAS LIKE THIS WHEN I FOUND HIM.

HIS HEART WAS STABBED A SINGLE TIME,

HE DID NOT RETURN

...

DID FEROPEH LEAVE ALONE WITH THAT MAN?

AND OF COURSE, HIS CAMEL WAS GONE AS WEL...

HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS SHOES NOR HIS OUTER ROBE.

HE'D DROPPED THE ROPE THAT HELD THAT THIEF.

A...

HA...

FEROPEH STRUCK HIS EYES, THEN BOUND HIS HANDS.

HE WANTED GRINJA DEAD, BUT HE GOT KILLED INSTEAD!

BANG!

KIRA!

HAHA!

HAHA!

AHA...

HE MUST BE THAT GUY'S ALLY!

NO, HE'S NOT!

HE'S MY IROKO.

WHY IS HE LAUGHING AT FEROPEH'S DEATH?!

WHAT'S WITH THAT IROKO?

WE'LL BURN THEM TOGETHER!

SWOOSH

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE HAS BETRAYED YOU?!

HE'S BAD LUCK FOR YOU, ASHIJIN!

HE'S MY PROPERTY!

YOU'RE LETTING YOUR GRIEF BLIND YOU!

AFTER THAT CURSED GUY CAME TO OUR VILLAGE,

...PEOPLE STARTED DYING!

...

COME, KIRA.

...

I PAID SOMEONE MONEY FOR HIM!

HE SAID HE ALONE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT...

...TO TAKE HIM ON.

FEROPEH WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAY FROM THAT GUY, BY ALL MEANS POSSIBLE.

IDIOT!

FOO LISH ...

...

...

I'LL GO TO THE CITY AND FIND THAT MAN.

CHIEF.

... HOW'RE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?

..BE ABLE TO FIND HIM?

WILL YOU REALLY...!

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE MAP TO THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE WAY.

ARE YOU GOING TO AVENGE FEROPEH'S DEATH?

OR ARE YOU JUST IN A RAGE ABOUT YOUR IROKO'S INFIDELITY?

YOU'RE PLANNING TO MEET GRINJA AT THE CITY, AREN'T YOU?

I'LL TAKE KIRA WITH ME.

—I'M NOT!

I'M ASHIJIN THE IMMOR TAL.

I WON'T DIE!

IT'S BECAUSE I'M ASHIJIN!

I'M DIFFERENT FROM FEROPEH!

YOU'RE GOING TO END UP JUST LIKE FEROPEH...

ASHI JIN —

WE'RE LEAVING TONIGHT.

YOU'RE GOING TO THE CITY?

YOU'RE TAKING HIM WITH YOU?

OH NO...

THAT CHILD ...

COMPLAIN TO THE CHIEF.

WHY WON'T YOU TAKE ME?

HMM...

THEN, AS A PARTING GIFT...

HIS EYES ARE GLOWING!

THAT CAN'T BE.

NEZ!

EDMOS.

ONLY TEA?

NOTHING ELSE?

WELCOME!

SOME GOOD BOYS CAME IN, YOU KNOW.

NO, I'VE GOT AN APPOINT MENT.

SHH.

BATAN

PULL

YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SOME THING?

JUST LAST NIGHT! AT MIDNIGHT, THEY BURST FROM BETWEEN THE WALLS.

THEY CARRIED GUNS AND KNOCKED ME OUT.

FROM BETWEEN THE WALLS...?

EH?!

PLEASE HELP ME, NEZ.

EMERADA'S BEEN TAKEN BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CENTER!

ARE YOU HURT?

...WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

... WHAT WOULD THE CENTER WANT WITH EMERADA?

THEY TOOK EMERADA.

LONG AGO, PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT THE CITY'S SECRET PASSAGEWAY.

WHY!?

DO YOU KNOW WHY!?

EMERADA'S HEART IS WEAK!

...

HOW SHOULD WE GET HIM BACK!?

MIKA...

NEZ!

WE WANTED TO CONSULT YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

—THOSE WHO LIVED AND THOSE WHO DIED.

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO ASK THAT, BUT. .

SIGH

WELL, YOU WANT ME TO...

ASK THE CENTER'S PERMISSION AS THE TEMPLE'S TEACHER...

I WANT TO SEE HIS BODY, EVEN JUST ONCE.

ROHNI'S OLDER BROTHER WAS BROUGHT TO THE CENTER.

...

YAAH.

...

JUST A BIT.

HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY DEPEND ABLE.

shi.

shira

tsuki.

chi

chi

I SOMETIMES CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM...

EH... YES...

AN ACQUAIN TANCE?

BUT...

THOSE ARE EMERADA'S LITTLE BIRDS

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

AND THE MARGRAVE TOO!

PLEASE GET ME THE HEAD OF THE SURGICAL DEPARTMENT!

AND THE HEAD OF SECURITY AS WELL!

WHERE IS THE MARGRAVE?

It was the president's order to take that person

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!

THEY ABDUCTED EMERADA!?

IT WAS JUST LAST NIGHT, EDMOS...

...MARCO?

CALL HIM!

At the airport

— "HALLELUJAH"!

— WE PROMISED TO LEAVE THE PEOPLE OF THE LIBRARY ALONE!

MARGRAVE!

DO AS YOU PLEASE.

IT SEEMS HE'S RECOVERED AFTER A NIGHT OF SLEEP.

CAN I MEET HIM NOW?

HOW'S DR. GO?

HE'S AWAKE AND FINISHED HIS BREAKFAST.

THERE'S A MESSAGE FROM MARCO FOR YOU.

IT CAME?

GOOD MORNING ... MARGRAVE.

GOOD MORNING DR. GO.

DO YOU WANT TO SHAVE YOUR BEARD OR TAKE A SHOWER?

SHATSU

SUCH THINGS ARE...

YESTERDAY MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL.

THE SHOCK OF ALL OF THESE THINGS TOGETHER...

YOU HAD A FEVER BECAUSE OF THE VACCINE AND YOU WERE TIRED FROM YOUR JOURNEY.

YOU CAN TAKE IT EASY NOW.

...

RESCUE?

... I CAME TO EARTH TO TRY AND RESCUE ARLIN.

SHE...!

"SAVE ME DR. GO."

"I'M AFRAID."

...

...

...

ARLIN SAID...

..."SAVE ME"....

THEN MAYBE SOMETHING WOULD HAVE REMAINED!

THAT'S RIGHT! IF ONLY SHE HADN'T BEEN INVESTIGATING THAT EXACT SPOT OF THE EXPLOSION!

PREPARA TIONS?

THE EXPLOSION SITE WON'T RUN AWAY.

PLEASE COME AS WELL DR. GO.

I'LL BE RETURNING TO THE CITY SHORTLY...

I'M INTERESTED IN THE EXPLOSION SITE AS WELL.

.. TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR INVESTIGATING THAT PLACE.

THE CITY?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT?

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW?

ALL THOSE PEOPLE THAT WERE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS.

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THAT.

TO KNOW?

WHO?

GAAA

IT CONNECTS THE CENTER, THE PRIVATE PART OF THE CITY AND THE AIRPORT.

YOU HAVE A METRO?

THEY DON'T KNOW?

THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE AIRPORT, THE METRO, THE STATION NOR THE COMPANY.

THE PEOPLE OF MARGINAL LIVE IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.

...TO PRODUCE CHILDREN.

...THAT MOTHER LOANS THE POWER OF GHOSTS...

THEY ONLY KNOW...

MOTHER...?

MEYARD!

IT'S A CHRONIC DISEASE.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, NEZ. ARE YOU ILL?

MARCO'S ..

THE ABSURDITY OF THE WORLD WEIGHS HEAVILY ON MY SHOULDERS.

...THE STREETS AND THE CENTER LIKE AN OPPORTUNIST.

COMING AND GOING BETWEEN ...

IT HAS BECOME SUFFOCATING.

YES, I KNOW. DON'T WORRY.

MEYARD!

YOU'RE ALL HERE.

OH, NEZ YOU CAME TOO?

MARGINAL'S CITY'S MIND CONTROL IS QUITE A DANGEROUS THING TO MEDDLE WITH...

YOU MUSTN'T LAY YOUR HANDS ON THE PEOPLE OF THE LIBRARY!

THE EXISTENCE OF THE LIBRARY RESOLVES ANXIETY.

SIR! YOU ABDUCTED EMERADA OF THE LIBRARY TO USE AS MOTHER, DIDN'T YOU!?

MARCO.

RELEASE EMERADA IN HIS ORIGINAL STATE.

PLEASE TELL THE HEAD OF THE SURGICAL DEPARTMENT THAT AS WELL!

...FINISHED LAST NIGHT.

THE OPERATION WAS.

IT WENT PERFECTLY.

!

HOW'S EMERADA, JACK?

HE'S DOING OK —

WE SLOW HIS AGEING PROCESS BY MAKING HIM SLEEP AT TIMES HE NEEDS NOT TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC.

BY THEN, THE CHOSEN BOY'LL BE COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO A WOMAN BY A SURGICAL OPERATION.

LIKE THAT, HE CAN SURVIVE FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS.

IN TEN DAYS, MOTHER WILL RISE.

DR. GO, YOU'VE COME AT A GOOD TIME.

—SUCH SELFISH NESS!

MOTHER ... YOU SAY.

...HASN'T GOT 5 MORE YEARS LEFT TO LIVE!

EVEN IF YOU DO THAT, THE FEEBLE EMERADA...

THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE A CHILD WAIT THEIR TURN.

THAT'S THE PROMISE THEY MADE WITH MOTHER. IT'S GOOD...

EVERY YOUNG MAN'S BLOOD AND SPERM ARE STORED AT THE TEMPLE.

HE'S A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL.

I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.

...DON'T UNDERSTAND THE CITIZEN'S ANXIETY!

YOU...

THEIR TURN STILL HASN'T COME!

IF I AM THE HEAD, THEN YOU ARE THE NECK MARCO. YOU'RE PART OF IT AS WELL.

BOTH OF YOU!

YOUR ROLE IS EMPTY, YOU HYPO CRITE!

HAPHA ZARD, IT'S RANDOM.

YOUR ROLE IS MERELY DECO RATION.

YOUR WAY.

BAM

CA-

CALM DOWN.

IT'S RUDE OF ME TO ASK, BUT WILL YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS REALLY...

...GO SMOOTHLY?

MEYARD.

THIS ISN'T SOME STORY!

AMONG THE CITIZENS OF EARTH'S DOMED CITIES,

...AND I'VE SEEN IT CHANGE COMPLETELY

AS AN ETHNOLOGIST, I'VE LIVED FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS ON EARTH.

—TO ME,

OF THE REMAINING 11 DOMES ON EARTH,

...OUR MONODOR IS THE LARGEST CITY.

...WE'VE LOST THE CITIES IN THE SAHARA AND GOBI DESERT.

DURING THOSE 30 YEARS,

...BECAUSE OF THE PROJECT'S IMPERFECTIONS,

PLEASE BE PATIENT.

FOR MOTHER -

...HALLELUJAH'S BIRTH.

IT WON'T FAIL.

...THE PROJECT WOULD FAIL FOR SURE!

THAT'S RIGHT, IN THAT CASE...

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO THIS CITY... THE COMPANY WOULD...

THEY LOOK LIKE THE BIRDS OF SOMEONE I'VE MET.

NO, BUT,

IS IT YOURS, MIKAL?

AH, THIS?

THEY GOT LOST AT THE CENTER LAST NIGHT AND I FOUND THEM.

shiroi.

shi.

shiro.

THEN, I'LL ... TAKE CARE OF HIM SKILL FULLY.

WHY DON'T YOU INVITE HIM TO YOUR ROOM FOR TEA?

THANK HIM.

...

EH?

IS THAT OK?

I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU.

THAT GUY...

... DEFINITELY LIKES YOU.

THAT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS STARS RESIDE IN THE CENTER.

WE HAVE A MARTIAN SKY AS WELL.

THAT'S BECAUSE THE CENTER'S IS HOUSED IN 20 UNDERGROUND FLOORS.

IS THIS PLACE CONCEALED FROM OUTSIDE?

PLEASE USE THIS ROOM FOR THE TIME BEING.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE TOWN, YOU SHOULD ASK NEZ TO BE YOUR GUIDE.

THE PROJECT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME.

JUST THEN... THE GUY CALLED MARCO YOU SAID WAS "THE NECK"...

...THE SEAS, LAKES, RIVERS AND EVEN PONDS WERE CONTAMINATED.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE "DISASTER" OF THE YEAR 2300...

THE WATERSIDE FOAMED RED WITH PLANKTON, SPORES, MOLDS, FUNGI AND RUBBISH.

IT'S ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PROGRAMS.

A 3D VIDEO OF A BLUE SEA.

LONG AGO, THE SEAS OF EARTH WERE JUST LIKE THIS.

THE ABUNDANT WATER.

click

shhh

shhh

...BECAUSE IT WAS DANGEROUS.

IT CAN'T BE,

DANGER OUS!?

...THEY 'D SMUGGLED THEMSELVES ONTO EARTH TO LIVE THERE... WHERE WE DETONATED...

THE DISEASE RATE OF THE FOREST'S SWAMPY GROUND WAS HIGH AS WEL..

MR. AND MS. ALEKSANDR LIVED IN A TINY DOME THEY'D MADE THEMSELVES.

...

HOW CAN IT BE THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

... ARLIN TOLD ME.

...

WHY DID YOU KNOW THEIR WHERE ABOUTS?

...DID THAT FOR ME.

SHE SPECIALLY ...

... TO DO THAT FOR YOU?

SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY ...

...I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

SUDDENLY ...

PSSSh
TO
he.
lo
.he

YES,

THIS IS KD 8X6X4X2.

♪ TO DI!!!

IT HAPPENED THREE MONTHS 'AGO.

Go?

THE RECEPTION'S BAD.

HELLO?

WHO ARE YOU?

AROUND THAT TIME, I'D GRADUATED FROM MARS AND STARTED WORKING FOR THE UNIVERSITY AS A LECTURER.

THAT'S RIGHT, AND YOU ARE?

Go?

I RENTED THE SAME ROOM IN THE APARTMENT COMPLEX I'D USED AS A STUDENT

It's Arlin.

MY TELEPHONE NUMBER WAS ALSO THE SAME AS THE ONE FROM BEFORE.

ARLIN!?

IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.

I ONLY REMEMBER YOUR FACE FROM OUR STUDENT DAYS.

WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM? YOU SEEM PRETTY FAR AWAY.

ARLIN!

THE FELLOW UNDERGRADUATE ... FROM THE UNIVERSITY ...

ARLIN! IT'S YOU! AMAZING!

beep

is that you

Go?

ARE YOU WELL? WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER...?

In the vicinity of Euphrates' forest's P

EH...?

WHAT?

I'm on Earth

I'm doing research with Ivan.

WAIT...

WHY?

...

18 YEARS

...

ON EARTH?

...

We snuck in.

18 years ago.

RESEARCH?

EARTH? —
I'M CERTAIN —
THAT WOMEN SHOULDN'T GO THERE?
THAT PLACE'S SPECIAL...

SNUCK IN? WHAT ABOUT NOW? ARE YOU SAFE? AND IVAN?

beep beep beep

THIS TELEPHONE CALL S STRANGE

He came here too

Ivan. he's well too

Everyone's weird

EVERYONE?

Those children

Save us. Go it's scary

CHILDREN?

— They're all the same.

4 of them

Kira

Save us!

shhh

WE'LL BE WAITING AT THE CEMETERY.

ALL RIGHT.

WE'RE LEAVING ONE HOUR AFTER SUNSET.

CLACK

KIRA.

CREAK

THWACK

DR. GO,

.....4
.....
OF KIRA?

CHILDREN CAN'T BE BORN IN MARGINAL.

I KNOW THAT.

BECAUSE IT'S SAID THAT CONSEQUENTLY ALMOST ALL PRIMATES AND LARGE MAMMALS WERE ANNIHILATED ...

I KNOW,

...TO CONCEIVE AND BEAR CHILDREN.

...A WOMAN'S BODY LOSES THE CAPABILITY ...

BECAUSE OF THE CONTAGION WITH D-FACTOR ...

...THE COMPANY PURCHASES OVA FROM THE WOMEN ON THE MOON.

FOR THE MARGINAL PROJECT,

IN ORDER FOR THE CITIZENS OF MARGINAL TO CARRY THE ANTIBODY, ONLY MALES CAN BE BORN.

TO MAKE SURE THE SPERM ISN'T CONTAMINATED, AN ANTIBODY IS ATTACHED TO THE MAIN PART OF THE Y-GENE.

THOSE ARE TRANSPORTED TO EARTH ...

...AND IMPREGNATED IN THE STERILIZED ROOMS IN THE UNDERGROUND CENTER.

...AND THEN SENT TO THEIR BIOLOGICAL FATHERS.

THE CHILDREN BRED AND BORN IN THE ARTIFICIAL WOMBS ARE NUMBERED ...

HIS RESEARCH SPANNED MANY FIELDS.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT EITHER.

HE MIGHT HAVE ALSO BEEN DOING SOME ILLEGAL CLONING EXPERIMENTS.

SO WHAT ARE THOSE 4 CHILDREN, THE 4 KIRA?

WHAT WAS IVAN RESEAR CHING?

I KNOW THAT.

BEFORE I HEADED HERE, I'D READ UP A BIT ON HOW THE PROJECT WORKED...

...IT WAS THE NAME ... OF IVAN'S ... MOTHER...

THEY'RE CALLED KIRA ...

IVAN LOST HER AT A VERY YOUNG AGE.

IVAN.

HIS MOTHER'S NAME WAS KIRA?

MOTHER? REALLY? ...

...HE WAS THINKING ... ABOUT THE WOMB.

... HE SAID ...

— THE WOMB?

bam

The Pink Panzer

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